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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

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CHAMPIONS SWEEP AWARDS NIGHT

PICS AND STORY PAGES 16 & 17

PLUS ...

- World Cup Group previews
- Free Competition
- Soccer West Coast

and heaps more in your new 32-page ABSW

Editorial

Last Saturday morning my son Liam had to miss his soccer match to go to Sydney's Town Hall to rehearse with the Australian Youth Choir, for a performance that evening (very good it was too).

This meant I had nearly two hours in the city, which gave me the opportunity to visit 'Soccer Connection' in Castlereagh Street, owned by my old mate Chris Lewis.

As we had a good old 'chinwag' over a cup of 'English Breakfast' and discussed the great games we had seen and mused away, I noticed a few things that should really be put right.

As the name suggests, 'Soccer Connection' is purely a soccer shop. It's full to the brim with videos, caps, shirts, scarves, T-shirts, player models, mugs, posters, clocks etc., and all at very realistic prices.

And then I spotted it, all by itself, a lonely Sydney United cap sitting alongside AC Milan, Arsenal and Man Utd. It didn't look out of place, and that's when it hit me. There was very little in the way of Australian soccer merchandise to be seen. The odd cap, a sticker perhaps, but not much else. If you wanted a scarf for Belgium, Spain or Brazil, a shirt to match perhaps or, just about anything to do with the World Cup, 'Soccer Connection' is surely the place to visit.

However, I asked Chris what the story was and his reply was, sadly, all too common: "It's virtually impossible to get the merchandise from the manufacturers," he explained: "I've contacted Adidas (Socceroo) and Nike (Carlton etc.) and they're not really all that helpful.

"I've lost count of the number of travellers who come in to buy the Australian shirt and walk away with their heads down.

"If they can't obtain the Socceroo jersey, they want an Ericsson Cup club shirt of other such item and once again, we can only get very small quantities and many are left disappointed."

It is nothing short of disgraceful, especially when the Olympic Games are just around the corner and demand could well outstrip supply, that our national sporting team strip is difficult, if not impossible, to find. Where does the buck stop?

Soccer Australia can surely not be blamed for this abysmal state of affairs, unless they only want items sold at their venues, in which case the profit they receive from sales would be minimal because from May until October time, there are no more games, restricting sales and therefore income (royalties).

This leaves us with one alternative: the manufacturers. The time has come for all parties concerned to raise their game.

If the merchandise is not readily available, how the hell can it be sold! Even after that fateful, hurtful night last November, many thousands of shirts could have been sold as the faithful wanted to show their allegiance to the Socceroos and the regard in which they are held.

Is it a breakdown in communication between the big corporations, Soccer Australia and the retailers, or is it simply that the companies believe there is no demand for these items?

If you, the reader, want to be treated like a mushroom, disregard what is written here. If, on the other hand, you're getting a bit fed up with it all, voice your opinion.

But think on, there is a place, in a corner of a city store that is forever Sydney United.

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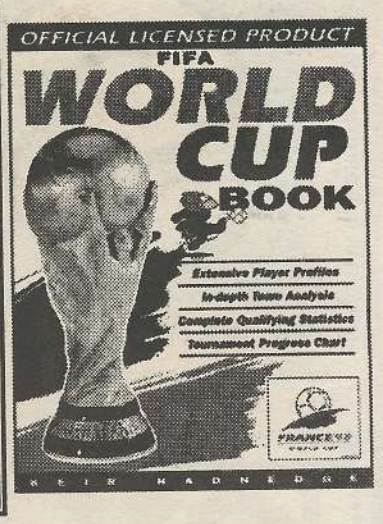
◆ **Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.**

Who are the current World Cup holders?

THE WINNER IS: DARREN THOMAS BENTLEIGH VICTORIA

THE WINNER IS: JENNY TRAIN CROYDON NSW



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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1: The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into,
2: ALL correct entries received by Monday June 1 will be placed in a hat and the first drawn shall be deemed the winner,
3: Entries MUST be made on the official coupon above (no faxes, photocopies etc. will be accepted),
4: Simply fill in the missing letters, print your name, address and telephone number in the space provided and send to us at the usual address and don't forget to mark your envelope with **'Competition'** in the top left hand corner.

ANSWER: — — — — — —

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The curriculum taught at the Academy is soley based on the philosophies and training methods utilised in Brazil and embraces the elements from successful European Youth Development schemes.

As such it's rapidly gaining the reputation of 'excellence' in its unique style of training and comprehensive approach to football education.

The coaching staff headed by Directors Leon Gardikiotis and Vince Colagiuri, includes highly qualified coaches with international qualifications and educational backgrounds.

In addition to conducting a 12 week programme three times per year, the 'FAE' extends specialised camps based on individual club requirements, coaching seminars in Youth Development plus various other football-related programmes.

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-Parental education and newsletters.

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GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

By John Economos

PAUL TRIMBOLI last Saturday night at the Annual Awards, took out the prestigious 'Warren Medal' for being this season's 'Players' Player'.

This was the second time 'Trimmers' has scored this coveted award, the only player to do so in the 21 year history of the National League.

Not only that, 'Trimmers' had previously scored his first 'major double' back in 1988 as well as for '89 when he won the 'Youth Player Of The League'

These four 'best awards' surely carry a decent degree of weight, especially as they were voted only by the players of the National League themselves, and they should have a fair idea.

Yet again 'Good Oil' is bitterly forced to remind its readers that this very same terrific Trimboli was not used for one single minute in Australia's vital, and ultimately fatal World Cup qualifying match against Iran at the M.C.G.

Why is it that we do not value our own?

Without question, for years, our National League players have known Trimboli's extremely valuable skills and intelligence, as did every single Souths supporter.

Ange Postecoglou: Souths' 'Coach Of The Year'.

Congratulations Angie, you are a deserving champion.

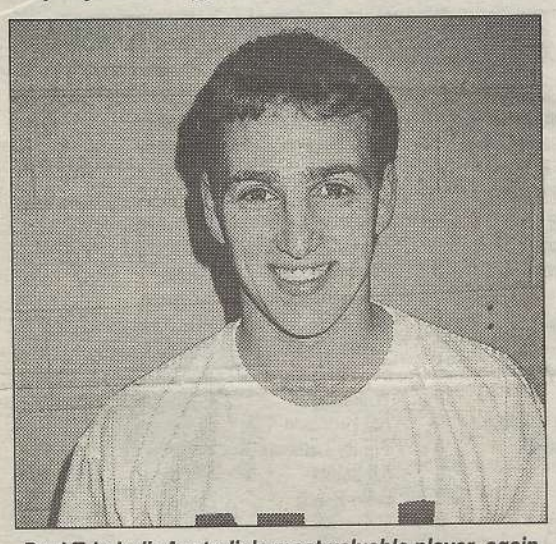
★ ★ ★

MICHAEL URUKALO, former coach of Apia Leichhardt and Heidelberg United, is currently in Cyprus, of all places, as coach of first division side Nea Salamina.

Urukalo stated to 'Good Oil' from Cyprus: "I have been here for the past three months.

"I was in Tahiti doing work for the Coaches Association there when I was approached by one of the big clubs in Cyprus-Nea Salamina F.C.

"This club was in serious trouble having gone through a disastrous season and were in 12th spot.



Paul Trimboli: Australia's most valuable player, again.

Why on earth then, not our 'national coaching experts'.

Paul Trimboli, from ABSW and its entire staff, our sincerest and heartiest congratulations for your latest award which was most deserving. Yet again.

★ ★ ★

ANGE POSTECOGLOU, most deservingly last Saturday night took out the 'Coach Of The Year' award having guided Souths in the National League to first past the post, then completed the rare 'double' of taking out the Grand Final as well.

Not bad for a 'rookie' as senior coach at the tender age of 32.

Maybe almost as equally impressive was Ange's very short, very genuine, concise and utterly humble speech that he made in receiving his well earned award. Easily the best speech of the night.

"The club was seriously threatened with relegation to division 2.

"It was the club's 50th anniversary as well and was struggling.

"Before I arrived this club had gone 10 matches without a single win.

"I then took charge with seven matches left and reeled off five wins plus a draw for the Club to finish the League season in seventh spot."

★ ★ ★

FRANK FARINA late last week was expected to be confirmed as the new coach of giant club Marconi to take over the reins from the suddenly departed Zoran Matic despite having contracts (as player and as coach) with the Brisbane Strikers till 2000.

The former World Cup flank-goal scorer had coached the Brisbane Strikers the past two seasons since returning from a 14 year stint playing career with various clubs in Europe.

But Farina's transition down to Sydney may not be a smooth one as both parties (the Strikers and Farina) last week threatened cross-litigation to one and other.

The Strikers' Chairman Mr Ian Brusasco late last week stated that Marconi should know better than approach Farina without Brisbane's knowledge and whilst he is still under contract to the Strikers.

But Farina last week is believed to have been involved in a verbal dust-up with Brusasco in wanting to get away and join Marconi.

Frank Farina: New boss at Marconi.

Meanwhile candidates already identified as a likely replacement for Farina as coach of Brisbane are Alan Hunter, former captain of the Strikers, David Ratcliffe, former coach of Sydney Olympic and John Kosmina, having just completed a three year contract with Newcastle Breakers which will not be renewed.

★ ★ ★

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS still have not announced their new coach to replace incumbent John Kosmina.

For weeks rumours circulated that former international striker and Novocastrian David Lowe would be given the stripes with former international left defender Graham Jennings as his assistant.

But lately, the 'bookies' have firmed odds on former Sydney Olympic's man, David Ratcliffe.

David Lowe: To miss out on Newcastle job.

RAUL BLANCO, Australia's Olympic coach last week made a shock selection by drafting into the Australian Olympic 20 man squad, Glen Kolpak that will do battle next month with New Zealand.

The 20 year old Kopak, a sharp striker with Queensland's Rochedale Rovers , has no experience in the national League, and is currently playing in the Queensland XXXX State League.

Australia's Olympic team next month will play three exhibition matches against the Kiwis in country cities of Townsville, Lismore and Coffs Harbour.

Olympic coach Blanco stated last week: "I have never before selected a player from any State League but Glen has all the ingredients you could wish for.

"He is quick, scores goals and possesses a great attitude."

The Australian Olympic squad went into a training camp yesterday (Monday) at the A.I.S. in Canberra, which included four new players that took no part in the three matches against Brazil.

As well as Kolpak, Blanco has added to the squad former Marconi robust midfielder Mark Robertson (Burnley-England, the lanky defender Ivan Zelic (Canberra Cosmos) and Andrew McDermott (West Bromich Albion-England).

All four new members took no part in the Olympic squad that crushed Brazil last month in a three match series.

Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic 2000 coach.

ZELKO KALAC, Sydney United's towering international goalkeeper, will now not be signed by Dutch first division club Vitesse Arnhem as originally planned.

Instead the unlucky 26 year old has signed a three year deal with another Dutch side, Roda JC Kerkrade which will yield his Australian club Sydney United a very much needed $400,000 transfer, plus an on-going percentage for any future move.

Kalac for the past four years has vainly tried to secure a contract with a European side but with monotonous regularity has been impeded by various hurdles including obtaining work permits to play with English clubs.

Kalac stated: "I was at first disappointed when the first deal fell through with Vitesse, but now I'm happier as Roda is a bigger club who usually finish in the top half of the League in Holland."

The giant Australian will wear the gloves for Australia next week against the World Cup side of Croatia in Zagreb.

★ ★ ★

SBS-TV LAST week announced that Ms Tracey Holmes has joined SBS Sports Department and the World Cup Team that will bring to Australia the exclusive coverage of the world Cup '98 kicking off in France June 10th.

Ms Holmes was a former sports broadcaster with ABC Radio before joining S.O.C.O.G. as Media Information manager.

In boasting the appointment of Ms Holmes to SBS as a gain and certainly a loss to S.O.C.O.G., SBS manager of Sport Mr Les Murray stated: "We are thrilled to have her on board.

"Tracey is one of Australia's most highly respected journalists and I'm stunned that S.O.C.O.G. let her go."

Ms Holmes will travel to France with the SBS World Cup Team for the duration of the Cup.

Her role will be as a presenter to link up with Les Murray, Johnny Warren, Kyle Patterson and another recent recruit, Brisbane Strikers' articulate captain Andy Harper, in the studio in Paris as they cover the entire 64 games.

Zeljko Kalac: Signed at last with new club in Holland.

★ ★ ★

OVER the past, as well as in the coming few weeks, there has been and will be, an exodus of administration people from our Soccer fraternity.

They have, or will leave their respective places of employment with their various Federations.

Queensland's ace administrator, (arguably the best in Australia), Mr Alan Vessey, resigned last week and is expected to join S.O.C.O.G, as has Ms Vicky Juric, the assistant to the League's General manager, based at Soccer Australia

Previous Media Officer at Soccer Australia, the most likeable Scott Crebbin, has also joined S.O.C.O.G.

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BILL TURNER CUP

By Micky Brock

For anyone out there who is interested in Australia's largest soccer competition, the questions raised have been quite valid, especially when considering the negative reports, speculation and rumour that has seemingly been 'on-going' recently.

Hopefully, we at ABSW Towers will allay any fears and/or doubts that may have been surrounding judgement during these troubled times.

As many will have noticed in our new and revised results columns lately, the 1998 competition is up and running, far healthier than ever before and providing an outlet for our young talent.

Qualifying matches are being played as we speak and the Round One games are being decided in Queensland as well as getting underway in most other areas.

However, that is the positive statement - the Bill Turner Cup is up and running, but there is a down side too.

A certain sports good company (Topper), sponsored the competition last season but, sadly, cash was not readily forthcoming and the competition Executive Committee worked extremely hard to get this season's tournament ready and beginning on time.

Needless to say, Topper is now in the hands of the Administrators, after all, they were to sponsor just about everything in the Newcastle/NNSW area and many parties have been left to feel aggrieved, including the Breakers, unfortunately.

All of the creditors finally met with the Administrator to determine the financial future of the said organisation but the reply came that this was extremely bleak to say the least.

Newcastle Falcons were quick to act on this news and picked up 'Hunter Power' as their sponsor, the Breakers are, reputedly, negotiating with 'parties unknown', leaving the schools competition to ponder the future.

The Bill Turner Cup is a totally amateur body and is now left holding the baby or, in this instance, the dirty nappy as they are left without a sponsor for 1998.

Undaunted, the committee have set about searching out a new one for 1999, but this doesn't solve the current crisis and, at present, it has come down to a few loyal, genuine supporters of the competition that have offered some help in the hope of it surviving this season.

The northern NSW Soccer Federation have made a donation to help in deferring the cost of the 1998 Handbook, which we reviewed some weeks ago and urged everyone to get their hands on a copy, which was sent out to ALL participants at the start of the year so that coaches would have the entire draw on hand in case of intermittent problems etc.

Another sporting firm in Newcastle has offered to help, which the Bill Turner Cup committee appreciate greatly, but they need many more offers such as this if they are to see the competition through because, as ever, it appears that Rugby League is a far larger sport than soccer and commands the monopoly on monies made available in sponsorship throughout the Hunter Valley.

Many of the schools themselves have been positive in their approach to this crisis but, in reality, have come up with little more than to urge the Executive to: "Hang in there, something good is bound to happen".

Obviously, this must be seen as encouraging to the competition organisers, as well as to help outsiders realise just what a unique, highly regarded and challenging tournament this is.

The saddest thing of all is that this is the 20th year of Bill Turner Cup competition, their 20th Anniversary, and what a cruel way to be celebrating it, especially when taken into account that the competition could go NATIONAL as early as next year and this, according to one company if they should become interested after reading a proposal sent to them, was what might be the final straw in attracting their dollars, a national competition sounding most attractive.

The following is an update of what has been happening, and has happened, in regard to the last 20 years:

* 1998 - The Bill Turner Cup celebrates (quietly) its 20th anniversary, after beginning in 1979 with a meagre entry of just 34 school teams.

* EVERY year since 1979, the entries record has been broken.

* This year, 738 school teams have entered (as of May 15).

* Participants come from as far afield as the North Queensland Peninsula and North Victoria to Broken Hill.

* Many Australian star players have represented their schools in the competition although not one of the Bill Turner Cup Executive etc. has ever made the outlandish claim that it was because of the competition that they found fame and fortune. What has happened in the past is that many of the players who did not play weekend football have been seen by playing in this tournament and recommendations were made with the appropriate clubs.

* The above is seen as part of the 'Talent Identification Program' (TIP)

There have already been some terrific matches in Round One of this year's competition:

Catherine McCauley (Grafton) 1, Grafton High 1 (Catherine going through 8-7 on pens); Bellingen 3, Orara 0 (the latter always providing strong teams and this being seen as somewhat of a 'shock' result); All Saints (Lochnivar) defeated Cessnock High 2-3 on penalties after their 2-all draw, Morriset going through 5-4 on penalties when locked 3-3 with Lake Macquarie (Booragal) and Gosford Christian Community seeing off the challenge of Henry Kendall by the same score after they finished level at 1-1 after 90 minutes, to mention just a few.

Narrabeen, last years finalists, got back on the winning trail with a 1-nil win over Cromer in a nail biting encounter and fourth placed Kaleen (1997 tournament), were soundly beaten with a 0-7 return against Radford College.

The Central Coast Area Manager, Kevin Smith of Umina High School, had a very successful promotion at Pluim Park, Lisarow, where eight of the first round fixtures were decided when, with two pitches situated at the complex, four successive matches were played after each other, the first kicking-off at 9.00am.

The Western NSW Area Manager, Ken Barwick, placed the 32 schools under his jurisdiction into groups of four and each grouping goes to a designated town to play their matches. The winner of the two games go on to meet each other to decide which team will progress in the competition.

The example of how well this works is this: Condobolin, Redband, Narromine and Parkes would meet at Parkes. One of the four schools would advance to Round Three, thus completing TWO ROUNDS on the one day.

Many believe that the Bill Turner Cup Committee does not support Soccer Australia but the following statement was received by us:

The Bill Turner Cup has, from it inception, been a part of the National body. Before a ball had been kicked in 1979, Bill Turner went to the then President of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, Stefan Kamasz, to seek affiliation.

Mr Kamasz and the Northern NSW Board of Directors agreed to the request at the very next meeting and, as a consequence, schools competition has been around and under the Soccer Australia umbrella for twenty years.

A number of times the committee has sought the advice of Soccer Australia on matters of policy and sponsorship. At no time have they continued with, or pursued a sponsor that did not have the approval of SA which, at times hurt financially, (deeply).

The Bill Turner Cup Executive supports Soccer Australia because it believes there should be an accountable body controlling the sport and wish it to be known that they also work closely with the Northern NSW Soccer Federation and have the endorsement of the Queensland Soccer Federation, the ACT Soccer Federation and Soccer Australia.

QUALIFYING ROUND

Asquith	5	St Leoe Col	1
Hunters Hill	3	Marsden	0
Bishop Druitt	3	Bowreville	0
Berkeley Vale	3	Gosford	0
Wyong	2-2	Tumbi Umbi	2-0
Terrigal	2	Green Pt Baptist	1
Leeton	3	St Francis	2
Bossley Pk	2	E.Macarthur	1
Hoxton Pk	5	Sarah Redfern	1
All Saints L	3	Patrician Bros F	2
Freeman	4	L'pool Boys	0
Ashcroft	2	James Busby	1
Macquarie Flds	2	Airds	0
Robert Townson	2	Amberville	0
Davidson	1	St Augustine Col	0
Balgowlah Boys	4	Pittwater	1
Nth Syd Boys	7	Killara	1
Masada Col	2	Manly	0
Holy Cross R	6	Hunters Hill	0
Malvina	1	Muirfield	0
Carlingford	9	James Ruse	0
Ashfield Boys	3	Concord	1
Greystanes	2	Northmead	0
Clare Cath	4	Pendle hill	3
Evans	4	Grantham	0
Merrylands	3	Sefton	1
De La Salle (A)	4	Fort Street	2
Plumpton	2	Colyton	1
Quakers Hill	2	Mitchell	1
St Agnes	2	Penrith	1
Colo	3	Coverdale	1
Winmalee	3	Richmond	1
Cranbrook	3	Mamre Col	1
Hawkesbury	4-4	Bade Poldina	4-3
Caringbah	2	Heathcote	0
Port Hacking	5	Cronulla	0
Kirrawee	6	Sylvania	1
James Cook B	2	De La Salle (Car)	1
Randwick Boys	3	Sth Sydney	2
Kingsgrove Nth	5	Sydney Tech	1
St Spyridon	2	All Saints (Lak)	1
Kingswood	3	John Wycliffe	2
Barraba	1	Manilla	0
Moree	3	Courallie	1
Richmond River	4	Nimbin	1
Casino	2	Kyogle	1
Tweed River	5	St Josephs	1
Dorrigo	6	Bishop Druitt	0
Toomina	3	Macksville	0
Bellingen	3	Orara	0
Scone	3	Musswellbrook	0
Singleton	3	St Josephs (Abe)	1
Kurri Kurri	2	Rutherford	0
ASC Maitland	5	Maitland	0
Kotara	7	Wallsend	2
Lambton	9	Jesmond	1
San Clamente	6	Waratah	2
St Phillips	2	Hunter Chr.	1
Belmont	1	Cardiff	0
Swansea	5	Belmont Chr.	0
Glendale	1	Toronto	0
Morriset	3-5	Lake Macquarie	3-4

ROUND ONE (NSW/ACT)

East Hill Boys	3	Sir Joseph Banks	0
DLS Revesby	2	Bass	1
Homebush Boys	7	Granville South	1
Chris Bros L	5	Tempe	1
Jamison	3	Dunheved	0
Blaxland	3	St Columbas S'wood	1
Katoomba	4	Springwood	3
Kogarah	3	Peakhurst	0
Moriah Col	7	Vaucluse	0
Waverley Col	1-4	Cranbrook	1-3
Tenterfield	3	Glenn Innes	0
St Mays Casino	3	Bonalbo	0
Wollumbin	3	Murwillumbah	0
Catherine	3	Sth Grafton	2
Coffs Harbour	2	Woolgoolga	0
St Pauls K	3	Nambucca Heads	2
Kempsey	2	Melville	1
Buladelah	3	Dungog	1
Wingham	4	Gloucester	0
Chatham	3	Kendall	2
Port Macquarie	2	St Josephs	0
Junee	3	Gundagai	0
Murray	3	Xavier	0
Notre Dame	8	Galen Col	1
Marian Col	7	Wodonga Cath	2
Denilquin	3	Barham	0
Kooringal	2	Mt Austin	0
Wagga	2	St Michaels Wagga	1
Berkeley	5	Lake Illawarra	3
Dapto	3	Albion Park	0
Vincentia	4	Nowra	1
Picton	8	Bowral	1
Woonona	4	Corrimal	1
Shoalhaven	1	Ulladulla	0
Holy Spirit	6	Bulli	1
Wollongong	7	Edmund Rice	4

ROUND ONE (QLD)

Trinity Anglican	3	Emmanuel Col	0
Mareeba	8	Mt St Bernards	0
Woree	3	St Monicas Col	0
St Augustine C	3	Good Counsel	2
Tully	2	Innisfail	1
Ryan Cath	3	Mt Carmel	0
Ignatius Park	3	Townsville	0
Kirwan	3	Heatley	0
Kernock	2	Bundaberg Nth	1
Gympie	3	Kenilworth	0
Burnside	4	Nambour	1
Noosa	3	Sunshine Beach	0
Maroochydore	3	Immanuel Luth	0
Maleny	3	Coulandra	2
Caboolture	2-5	St Columbans	2-4
Grace Lutheran	2	Bribie Island	0
St Pauls Bald H	3	Kolbe	0
Albany Creek	3	Everton Park	0
St James	7	Hendra	0
Brisbane Gram	4	Wavell	0
Concordia	6	St Josephs T	2
Centenary H	6	Christain Outreach	2
Nelson Bay	3	Irrawang	1
St Pauls B	3	Macquarie Col	1
Gosford C	1-5	Henry Kendall	1-4
Lisarow	4	Narara Valley	2
The Entrance	7	Wyong	0
Mater Dei	2	Gorokan	0
Umina	3	Gosford	0
St Edward's G	6	Erina	0
Woy Woy	8	Terrigal	0
Kincumber	3	Northlakes	0
Canberra	4	Melrose	0
Belconnen	3	Melba	0
Waniassa	3	St Pats Goulburn	0
Delroy	6	Sth Dubbo	0
St Johns Dubbo	4	Dubbo	0
Narromine	3	Parkes	2
James Sheehan	8	Blayney	0
Orange	4	Canobolas	1
Kelso	2	Bathurst	1
Wade	6	Griffith Cath	1
Griffith	3	Leeton	0
Hillston Central	3	Colleambally	0
Balranald	3	Hay	1
Finley	3	Billabong	0
Coolaman C	3	The Rock	2
Cootamundra	8	Tumut	0
Stanthorpe	4	Pittsworth	0
St Josephs St	9	Killarney	0
Runcorn	5	Sunnybank	0
Oxley	3	Yeronga	0
Macgregor	6	Marist Rosalie	2
Marist A'grove	6	St Laurence	0
Chisholm	3	Calvary	0
Springwood	9	Kingston	0
Redeemer	5	Mansfield	1
Cavendish Rd	4	Iona Col	1
Sth Queensland	3	Boonah	0
Windaroo V	4	Coombabah	2
AB Patterson	3	St Kevins	0
Trinity Lutheran	3	Benowa	0
All Saints	9	Merrimac	1
Palm Beach	3	Elanora	0

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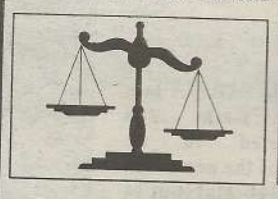

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BILL TURNER CUP

AROUND THE CLUBS

VIC VOICE

TRIMBOLI WINS PASCOE VALE SPORT SCENE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne skipper Paul Trimboli is the 1998 winer of the Pascoe Vale Sportscene/ABSW Player of the Year award.

Trimboli polled 25 votes in the regular season, four more than his nearest rival, Carlton's John Markovski.

It's been a fantastic season for Socceroo Trimboli, lifting the Ericsson Cup trophy for South Melbourne last week as well as winning the Warren Medal as Player-of-the Year in the Ericsson Cup.

Sydney United's Abbas Saad was next on 20 votes with Ericsson Cup leading scorer Damian Mori not far behind on 18.

Every game in the Ericsson Cup this season was watched by ABSW this season and votes were allocated on a 3-2-1 basis for best players.

Paul Trimboli receives his Pascoe Vale Sport Scene award from ABSW's Melbourne correspondent Dwyght Tuffnell

Abbas Saad: The skilful Socceroo at Sydney Utd came second in the voting.

NSL CLUBS' TOP VOTE-GETTERS

Ad City: Damian Mori - 18
Ad Sharks: Pablo Cardozo - 11
Strikers: Glenn Gwynne - 17
Cosmos: Gordon Hunter - 8
Carlton SC : John Markovski - 21
Gippsland: Tony Sekulic - 13
Marconi: Francis Awaritefe - 18
Melb Knights : Ante Deak - 11
N Breakers : Clayton Zane - 17
Perth Glory : Troy Halpin - 14
South Melb: Paul Trimboli - 25
Sydney United : Abbas Saad - 20
Sydney Olympic : Bob Catlin - 15
Wollongong: Anthony Surjan - 16

Bobby Catlin: Top point scorer at Olympic.

AWARDS NIGHT CAPERS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne were the big winners again at the Ericsson Cup Awards Night on Saturday at Melbourne's Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Paul Trimboli won the Player's Player of the Year award and coach Ange Postecoglou took out the Coach of the Year prize.

South also collected its Minor Premiership and Championship trophies and, along with Trimboli's and Postecoglou's awards, very little space was left on the table.

South President George Vasilopoulos said, following the scenes after last weeks Grand Final, that it had been a tough week for the club.

"Since last Saturday's Grand Final, my club and I have been through a very stressful time.

"But tonight is a reward for all the hard work of South Melbourne this year, the players, coaches and committee."

Trimboli, a popular winner, also won the award in 1993 but said that this one had more significance.

"This ones better, winning it in conjunction with a championship makes it more memorable" he said.

"You don't think about these sort of things during the year because you're so busy focussing on other things but when they come along they a pleasant surprise.

"We (South Melbourne), certainly put in a lot of effort this year and it's nice for the club and me to be rewarded.

"I'm thrilled that things have worked out this way."

A humble Postecoglou paid tribute to both other candidates for the award, Nick Theodorakopoulos and Dave Mitchell.

"It's been an unbelievable year and this just tops it off" said Postecoglou after collecting his award.

He said he wasn't about to carried away and that he was already looking forward to next season.

Captain of the Olyroos in their series win over Brazil, senior Socceroo selection and a nomination for the player of the year, Brett Emerton of Sydney Olympic has had a sparkling season which was capped off with the Under 21 Player of the Year trophy.

"I've had a brilliant year" said Emerton.

"Everything's come at once for me, I couldn't have asked for more."

Jason Petkovic won the Goalkeeper of the Year award, beating off stiff opposition in his brother Michael and Dean Anastasiadis, the favourite for the trophy.

"It's a bit of a surprise" said Petkovic, "I thought I had a better year last season than I did this season."

ALL THE AWARDS

Warren Medal - Player's Player of the Year

Paul Trimboli - South Melbourne

Coach of the Year
Ange Postecoglou - South Melbourne

Under 21 Player of the Year
Brett Emerton - Sydney Olympic

Goalkeeper of the Year
Jason Petkovic - Adelaide City

Top Goalscorer
Damian Mori - Adelaide City

Youth League Player of the Year - Southern Division
Ivica Clarica - Carlton S.C.

Youth League Player of the Year - Northern Division
Mile Sterjovski - A.I.S.

Referee of the Year
Eugene Brazzale

Assistant Referee
Michael Parry

Optus Fair Play Award
Brisbane Strikers

ILLAWARRA INSIGHT

By Phil Murphy

Former Sutherland player Greg Lerond is proving to be a value acquisition to Bulli coach Peter Beggs.

Beggs signed Lerond at the start of the Premier League season and he is performing exceptionally well in the centre of midfield.

Moving into the veteran stage of his career, Lerond is strong in the tackle, his passing is above average and his talking is valuable to the team.

After the recent 2-1 away win against Lysaghts, Beggs said it had been the best performance of the season.

"We played very well and Greg (Lerond) played a big part," Beggs said. "Having signed Darren Temple to play at the back has been a plus for me after we lost Stuart Glass to Northern United.

"Greg Yeaman is also playing quite well in midfield."

The Bulli midfield holds the key to their prospects this season.

Lerond, Yeaman, Patterson and Adam Hammersley operate in the middle of the park and they are capable of swinging games in Bulli's favour.

CARR CONFIDENT

Northern United have had a successful start to the season.

Coach Phil Carr is having his second campaign at Memorial Park after 15 successful seasons at Figtree.

Carr believes he has some very talented young players at the club.

He proved that during the home game against Coniston.

There were five northern players out due to suspensions and injuries and Carr promoted five youngsters.

Northern won the game 3-0 and Carr paid tribute to his replacements.

"They were very impressive," the coach said.

"It proves that the club's youth policy is paying off and that makes things a lot easier for me. I think we will have a successful season."

COACHING CHANGE

Jim Dafkovski is the first Premier League coaching casualty of the season.

Dafkovski was sacked by Kemblawarra after just six games. In that time, his team had won one game, drawn two and lost three. The club claimed it needed to inject new blood into the club after spending up big on new players.

Kemblawarra were promoted from the First Division at the end of last season.

YOUNG STARS TO GONG

Wollongong Olympic have signed midfielder Peter Zorbas and striker Jim Bakus from Sydney Olympic.

Zorbas was with the Wollongong club last season and coach John Fleming described him as his best player.

Bakus scored plenty of goals for Sydney Olympic's youth team last season and is expected to make a strong bid for a first team berth in Wollongong.

Joe Coelho and Stuart Porter started the season up front for Fleming.

Meanhwhile the new coach is Joe Coelho, who started the season playing up front with Wollongong Olympic.

PREMIER LEAGUE THIS WEEKEND

Bulli v Fernhill, Coniston v Helensburgh, Kemblawarra v Cringila, Dapto v Lysaghts, Port Kembla v Northern United and Wollongong White Eagles v Wollongong Olympic.

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CROWDS DOWN

Dear Sir,

With talk about declining crowds compared to last season, I cannot help thinking that lower ticket prices would help generate more public interest. Using the play-offs as a guide, Carlton received good media coverage before their game against Marconi at Olympic Park, but only 4,000 turned up, which is embarrassing, even for a club in its first season.

They attracted larger crowds during the season, so there must have been something wrong.

Some have suggested that ticket prices were far too high, some seats as much as $36. It's not as if this were the FA Cup Final, so how do the authorities expect to get bums on seats with ridiculous prices like this? Our game is attempting to attract new fans, particularly families, and SA charge an arm and a leg to get in. They should be encouraging people, not deterring them.

It would also be a good idea to give away thousands of free tickets occasionally. That is probably how Brisbane managed to attract 40,000 at last year's Grand Final. Basketball did this for years, and attracted a core following, although that game is going backwards because Australians do not want to be Americans, and you have to be two metres tall to play! However, SA and the clubs should use this tactic for big games to attract media attention. They will not make money initially, but in the long run they would receive more money from sponsorships etc.

Finally, congratulations to South Melbourne (or is that Greece?) for winning the Grand Final against Carlton. Thanks to those supporters who threw flares, waved Greek flags, and invaded the pitch after the game. This will attract plenty of families to local soccer in future!!!

It's amazing how these negative incidents always involve ethnic clubs. After all, there was not a hint of trouble from Carlton's fans when they conceded that controversial late winner, and we all remember the impeccable behaviour of Brisbane's fans at last years' GF, as well as Perth and Wollongong's crowds, both this and last season. I don't mean to be an ethnic basher, but the days are numbered for some traditional clubs, not all, but some of them.

These incidents merely give the media ammunition to throw at our game, and to justify their jaundiced view of it. I know the certain sections of this game would blame the lack of security, but these incidents should NEVER occur regardless of the level of security present. And SA won't be able to take much action, because it'll be another day in court. I feel for South's officials, because it seemed their fans were better behaved than last season.

On a positive note, well done to both teams for playing good football. It's a pity there had to be a loser on the night.

G. Owen
Geelong, Vic.

Editor's note:

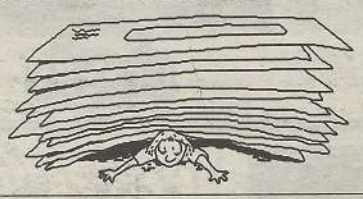
This interesting point to this is that Soccer Australia were in charge of the game and must have made all the arrangements for it. Irrespective of who invaded the pitch etc., it is they who must receive a kick in the pants for, not for what transpired, but for what was allowed to take place.

As for the so-called supporters of South Melbourne, if the club know any of those fans, they should immediately report them to the correct authorities.

They dishonour their club, their players, their former/never visited origin country and, worst of all, they dishonour this proud sport. The club does not need them, the game certainly doesn't need them and they should be given the respect they deserve — NONE AT ALL!

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
Australian & British Soccer Weekly
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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

FRANK LIKELY TO LEAVE

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in the knowledge that Frank Farina is almost certainly leaving Brisbane to join Marconi and, as a Brisbane supporter, I would like to give my thanks to Frank for lifting the profile of the real football in the (previously) rugby-league dominated State of Queensland. Frank brought the championship to Queensland for the first time in front of over 40,000 supporters, an achievement which will not be forgotten.

The sad part of Farina's (probable) departure is that it signifies the failure of the Strikers management to build upon the 1997 championship success.

The average attendance at Suncorp Stadium over the 1997/98 season actually fell by 21% to 3,963, with the standard of entertainment, both on and off the pitch, well below expectations. The club failed to invest money in marketing or players and Brisbane will fall further behind until the privatisation process is completed.

Personally I must admit that without the benefit of free tickets I wouldn't have suffered through the last half of the season at Suncorp. Having watched the Strikers since their Perry Park days, a considerable amount of XXXX would be required to enjoy their recent performances.

The NSL as a whole over 1997/98 actually suffered a 10% fall in crowds, undoubtedly not assisted by the 'post-Iran blues'. However, now is not the time to pause. Further restructuring is urgently required, and to this end I would ask Mr Hill to remain Chairman until at least 2000.

Frank Farina

The NSW and Victorian Federations surely have enough work to do in lifting the profile of the game in their states, without constantly demanding Mr Hill's.

My only problem with the current administration was the decision to reject Auckland's bid to join the NSL, leaving a 15 team competition for the 1998/99 season. NZ football certainly needs a boost just as much as the NSL desperately needs some international rivalry. The current league is not financially viable and certainly the scenes at Grand Final day have not helped promotion of the game. The day that my workmates start talking to me about the football, rather than the so-called 'riots' at the match, is the day that we can rest on our laurels. As Mr Brock would comment though: "don't hold your breath!".

Anthony Fensom
Highgate Hill, Qld

P.S.
Thanks for your expanded coverage!

Editor's note:

The 'morons' for that is what these so called supporters surely are, do nothing for this great game, as mentioned in other notes on this page. As for the resignation debate that has been raging in recent times, there is an awful lot more to it than has been told, so much the public are unaware of.

It's a minefield out there and many factors must yet be considered. As for the Auckland debacle, it would serve no useful purpose to either Australia nor New Zealand if they fielded a team in the NSL that wasn't competitive or at the very least improved the standard of the league. Maybe one day...

Now you can also send your letters to ABSW's email address at:

soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
We encourage you to use this service.

FLARES ARE BACK HELLAS STYLE!

The following was sent in to 'ABSW Towers' and gives one fan's perspective of what it was like to be on the terraces during the flare-throwing incident and, more importantly, what it meant to the idiots doing it.

BIFF! BANG! POW!

This is the sound of a flare exploding at Olympic Park on the 16 May, Grand Final Day, the old guard South Melbourne versus the new and impassionately supported Carlton. The unofficial fireworks, as performed by the 300 or so teenage South Melbourne supporters, galvanise the rest of the predominantly Greek crowd.

"It's easy," one of the pimply faced flare-throwers says: "You stick it inside a bread roll or you give it to your girlfriend, they don't check 'em."

Chants of "Hellas, Hellas' burst my eardrums and the smoke impairs the vision of the game, not to mention Michael Petkovic's. 'Hellas, Hellas' was yelled as a reaction to David Hill's proposal of non-ethnic based clubs.

"Even though we weren't born in Greece, we're still Greek," the flare-thrower says.

A flare lands near the camera rail. Congratulations are in order for the thrower.

"Get the cop," one of them yells. They are having bets on who has the best throw, that is, who can do the most damage. South score through John Anastasiadis. A celebratory flare ignites the crowd.

More chants of 'Hellas, Hellas'.

By this stage I can barely see the game. Shouts of 'Markovski you muppet" (children read this publication and we reserve the right to change and edit certain items that may cause offence) are heard and a flare is specifically thrown at him, although it misses by a good few metres. The smoke makes it tough on police, who can't make out the faces in the crowd.

When the half ends, a few of the crowd 'go to get some more'. When the second-half resumes, more flares are thrown and some backfire into the crowd.

The atmosphere is coming from the eastern stand. Carlton have yet to develop a passionate following, just a matter of time. A lull in the game develops.

A cue for more flares. Someone on the tannoy says at the conclusion of the match, "Please do not jump the barriers," more jeers from the crowd, more expletives and throwing of flares.

Carlton score, silence. They sense the usual 'South jitters'. You can barely hear the Carlton supporters. Everyone looks around nervously. For the first time I can see the game without holding my nose.

If there were no Hellas, these supporters would not be turning up to the games. "We don't care what anyone thinks. We're having a good time," one says to me.

When I ask them whether they could be the downfall of the club, they shrug their shoulders. K says: "I reckon the club likes us because we add atmosphere but David Hill hates us because we're Greek."

Hypothetically, if South Melbourne ceased to exist, who would you support? I ask. They look dumbfounded and some say "nobody" while a few announce that they may support Carlton, "But that's only if all ethnic clubs cease to exist."

Curiously most of these teenagers support Australian Rules clubs that have no ethic affiliation.

South Melbourne scores their second goal through 'Bootsy'. More flares are thrown. I have had enough and leave the teenage flare-throwers. Minutes later, Souths have officially won the Final and absolute mayhem is assured. Torn out seats and a pitch invasion are the result.

Souths, or Hellas, may have won the final, but David Hill still has a lot of work to do. A new mentality needs to breathe at ethnic-based soccer grounds next season or the flare-throwers beloved club will die and with it so will soccer.

Editor's note:

I wonder if any of these people who believe David Hill, or anyone else for that matter, hates them because they are 'Greek', has ever stopped to wonder if the real reason no-one likes them is far nearer to home than that? It's simply because you're idiots and it really does not matter what supposed nationality you are to achieve this magnificent status in life!

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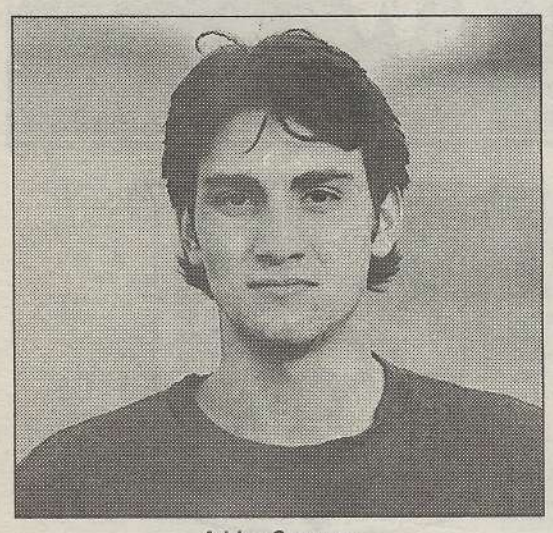
Rising Stars



Adrian Cuzzupe

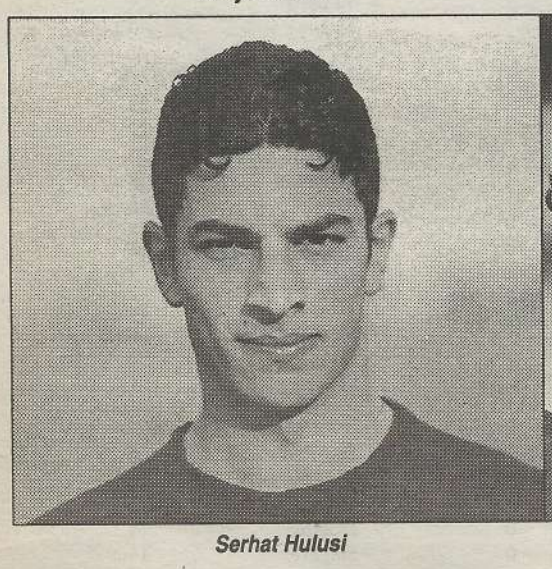
VIS Players 97/98 Season

Photo by Roy Hay©

Head Coach Ernie Merrick supervises keeper Martin John.

Joey Di Iorio

Steve Laurie



Serhat Hulusi

Pat Arcuri

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 11

UNDER 13

Sydney United	1	Blacktown City	0
Macarthur Rams	4	Marconi Fairfield	1
Sutherland Shire	2	Leichhardt Tigers	0
Eastern Suburbs	1	Gladesville Hornsby	1
Southern Districts	2	Manly Warringah	1
Sydney Olympic	P	Parramatta Eagles	P
Newcastle Breakers	P	Wollongong City	P
Southern Districts	1	Sydney United	0
Macarthur Rams	P	Gladesville Hornsby	P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Sydney Olympic	11	10	0	0	35	8	27	30
Southern Districts	11	8	1	2	22	16	6	25
Sutherland Ass.	11	7	1	3	18	13	5	22

UNDER 14

Blacktown City	1	Sydney United	0
Marconi Fairfield	1	Macarthur Rams	1
Sutherland Shire	1	Leichhardt Tigers	0
Gladesville Hornsby	4	Eastern Suburbs	2
Southern Districts	4	Manly Warringah	1
Sydney Olympic	P	Parramatta Eagles	P
Newcastle Breakers	P	Wollongong City	P
Southern Districts	2	Sydney United	0
Macarthur Rams	P	Gladesville Hornsby	P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Southern Districts	10	9	1	0	41	8	36	28
Sydney Olympic	10	9	1	0	35	4	31	28
Blacktown City	11	9	0	2	18	7	11	27

UNDER 15

Blacktown City	2	Sydney United	1
Marconi Fairfield	1	Macarthur Rams	1
Sutherland Shire	4	Leichhardt Tigers	1
Gladesville Hornsby	7	Eastern Suburbs	0
Southern Districts	4	Manly Warringah	2
Sydney Olympic	P	Parramatta Eagles	P
Newcastle Breakers	P	Wollongong City	P
Sydney United	1	Southern Districts	0
Macarthur Rams	P	Gladesville Hornsby	P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Sydney Olympic	10	8	1	1	35	15	20	25
Newcastle Breakers	11	7	0	4	27	20	7	21
Parramatta Eagles	8	6	0	2	23	13	10	18

UNDER 16

Blacktown City	1	Sydney United	0
Macarthur Rams	1	Marconi Fairfield	0
Sutherland Shire	1	Leichhardt Tigers	1
Gladesville Hornsby	2	Eastern Suburbs	0
Southern Districts	4	Manly Warringah	0
Sydney Olympic	P	Parramatta Eagles	P
Newcastle Breakers	P	Wollongong City	P
Southern Districts	4	Sydney United	0
Macarthur Rams	P	Hornsby	P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	8	7	0	1	26	8	18	21
Blacktown City	11	6	1	4	14	12	2	19
Newcastle Breakers	11	6	0	5	17	13	4	18

NSW

DEAR READER, DAVID COOPER, A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION, STATED TO ABSW THAT HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED FROM ABOVE THAT HE IS NOT TO FURNISH THIS PUBLICATION WITH RESULTS AND TABLES FOR THE NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE. HOWEVER, WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING OUR READERS WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE, AND AT A FAR CHEAPER PRICE THAN 'SUPER SOCCER', WE SHALL CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE EACH WEEK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED, ARE THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SCARED OF ABSW'S GROWING POPULARITY?

OVER TO YOU...

Mile Sterjovski of Sydney United and the Australian Institute of Sport and Ivica Klarica of Carlton were named as the players of the year in the Northern and Southern Divisions of the National Youth League respectively by their peers at the Ericsson Cup awards night in Melbourne on Saturday. Sterjovski was the leading scorer in the the Northern Division with 25 goals an incredible feat given that he left the AIS for Sydney United half way through the season and only appeared in a few youth games for United after that. He also scored some critical goals for the senior team in the run-in at the end of the season. The other nominees for the Northern Division were the Carle brothers Leo and Nick of UTS Olympic both of whom also hit the headlines for their senior team with stunning goals and starring performances. Sterjovski could not be present at the Grand Hyatt on Saturday night and his award was accepted on his behalf by AIS Head Coach Steve O'Connor who spoke highly of Sterjovski's goal-scoring feats and all round play for both the Institute and his club.

In the Southern Division Carlton's classy sweeper Ivica Klarica was voted player of the year. To win this award as a defender is a notable achievement and he was up against some very strong competition including Martin John and Steven Mrkela both of the Victorian Institute of Sport. Even in the Carlton line-up he had to contend with a number of rising stars Simon Colosimo, Andy Vargas, Alex Josifovski, Pece Siveski and keeper Adrian Cagalj. To come out on top was a great reward for Klarica's coolness under pressure, accurate and sophisticated distribution and his leadership qualities. Modest and quiet off the field, Klarica not only led by example but organised his fellow defenders and team-mates as Carlton youth emulated its senior team by reaching the Grand Final in its first season. Klarica is well aware that he still learning and looks forward to another season in what he describes as "the brilliant set-up at the club", before perhaps trying his luck overseas in future.

Rothmans Football Yearbook
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Fan's Comment

FOOTBALL IS THE FANS' GAME

By Stuart Jones

With the imminent arrival of pay-per-view TV soccer in England, one wonders how far the game has come in bending over backwards for TV at the expense of the supporters.

Even in Australia the big drive is to get soccer onto a commercial TV station, which will be at the expense of the quality coverage of SBS.

That is why it was good to have the opportunity to reflect on the game as a supporter recently.

I travelled down to Melbourne to watch the Grand Final. It, of course, was not the only game in the world of soccer that weekend. The FA Cup and Scottish FA Cup were also being played.

At Olympic Park many shared the joy and despair of winning or losing a big game. It was great to see such a fierce rivalry build up between a club so rich in tradition and a newly formed entity.

The view was impressive, so many fans dedicated to one cause. Two weeks prior I had seen the Wollongong-Marconi game in Sydney and I wish the NSL could be like that every week. The two supporter groups were in separate stands facing each other. There was singing and cheering and a fantastic atmosphere built up. Sometimes we think only 'our' city could ever build up that sort of atmosphere, but having seen both Melbourne and Sydney crowds in this finals series, I can say that both towns can compete in this area at major soccer games.

None of that is down to David Hill, none of that is down to the players, none of it is down to the clubs. In the end, the passion of the game comes from the fans.

What of Brisbane last season, did they not ride their Grand Final win on the back of 40,000 fans? Perth's off-field success (not matched as yet by on-field exploits) is down to the Glory fans who turn up every week to cheer and yell and have a great time following the team. The side would be nowhere without the fans.

North Sydney Spirit will only survive if the people of Sydney, and more particularly the lower North Shore peninsula, get behind the side with their posteriors on seats at North Sydney Oval.

Talking to fans of the game, it looks like Spirit have a great ground swell of support. Would it not be great for the Wolves to take on Spirit in front of a full house, with singing and chanting, knowing that this was a safe family day out? Only the fans can do that, no policy or edicts are ever going to be able to create this.

There is a push to leave some of the older fans behind, to bring in this new wave of supporter, but they are the support we have built these new crowds on. The best thing about the current soccer fan of Australia is they are not insular. Whether they support PAOK, Armenia Bielfeld, Sporting Lisbon, Majorca, Arsenal or Juventus, they love their football. This has led to our players being much more aware of differing flavours of football, and therefore soccer in Australia has a very unique playing style, mixing many backgrounds together.

Make no mistake, what is being played on the field has come from the fans. These fans come out to watch the Socceroos and enjoy it so much that many of them will be the ones critical of the ethnic element of the game. Yet what they have just witnessed is because of this very ethnicity.

These fans love the World Game as well. On Saturday night, after the Grand Final, I headed off to the Albion Hotel in North Melbourne, where I watched the FA Cup Final with a hundred or so 'Gooners'. At full time we celebrated the double, together with millions right around the world, at exactly the same time. I was as close to Wembley as I could be. I knew in Sydney, at 'One World Sport' (a sports bar at Sydney's Darling Harbour), there would be hundreds of others celebrating, including the editor of this paper. In Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane, thousands would be celebrating with many more devastated. It would be more than Australians or English, there would be Greeks, Italians, whatever their backgrounds, watching the game and enjoying it for what it was —football.

The next day I watched the Scottish Cup Final.

Again it was purely football and we were fans who respected two great teams. Football is a world game, and in Australia, even more so than Europe, we can respect other leagues around the globe. Why else would people of all different backgrounds watch an all Italian UEFA Cup Final? In the end, no other game arouses the passion like football.

Sure Grand Final day for the AFL at the MCG may stop Melbourne, but it does not stop the world.

As we come up to the World Cup Finals, the world will view the games with interest. Fans of Australian football will watch with a tinge of jealousy that we are not there, but it will not stop us watching. Those that are critical of the game in Australia will not watch the World Cup, the very people some in Soccer Australia want to bring in as fans at the expense of our current supporters. If they do not watch the World Cup, why would they watch Australian football?

We are spending a lot of time pandering to the community, we should be using our fans to represent the game. If they are seen as representatives, maybe more will take responsibility for their actions.

Those that then go overboard will be rejected by their friends and may, perhaps, stop acting as hooligans. The fans are the game and if we make them feel this way they will not want to ruin it.

However, we continue to bring in outside people to talk to us about football, even SBS is doing that with their recent acquisition for their World Cup hosts. Perhaps management should have looked at the fans who know something about the game, the passion and how to tell others about it, rather than bringing in a general sports broadcaster who will only alienate the real fans from the telecast.

If new fans are brought in at the expense of the current crop, one thing is for sure, they will not have half the passion we have now.

In England the TV revolution of football has meant the crowds are much quieter — to the point where clubs are desperately trying to find ways to make fans support their team more vocally. Why should we follow this example. Because we come from there? Maybe officialdom do not have an ethnic range so diverse in the fan base.

That is why the fans should not be ignored, in fact it is even more important to always be talking to them, like the supporters' associations around Europe, maybe it is time for Australian supporters to have their own combined voice.

The last few weeks I have seen football fans in Australia supporting the World Game. Let us never forget that we, the fans, will always run the game. We are more important than Soccer Australia can ever be.

We are more important than the clubs themselves for really the fans are the clubs. Player loyalty exists no longer in reality, but the fans always remain the same.

Without supporters there would be no World Game, so let us be representatives of the game that would be nothing without us. If we are those voices, the very problems caused by officials dictating the rules would be overcome. Fans would alienate those trying to destroy the game, the hooligans etc., and yet the passion would remain.

Soccer is football. It is the World Game, but above all, it is the fans.

NORTHERN NSW

By Dane Skafte

NNSW Soccer Federation announced the U/16 girls team which takes part in the National Titles from July 5-11 at Southport, Qld.

Bruce Tracey, NNSW Deputy Manager of Coaching and Development, will bring his squad together at Speers Point for a few days training before the coach trip north.

The Squad:

Rachael Alley, Amy Baldwin, Amanda Brennan, Kerin Duncan, Kathryn Gill, Julie King, Rachael Gray, Tara McMinn, Christy Lee McNamara, Aimie Neilson, Amber Neilson, Manie Scevak, Amy Scott, Meegan Shepherd, Lorissa Stevens, Ashley Wilson.

Furthermore, the 'Steel City Challenge' for 1998 will be hosted by the Illawarra Soccer Association this Saturday afternoon at Crehan Park, Port Kembla, with the kick-off at 3.00pm for the senior match and the youth game kicking-off two hours earlier.

Youth Squad:

Anthony Bauer, John Gibson, Jose Enriquez, Andrew Folwell, Graham Webber, Shane Groen, Nathan Hall, Todd Humphreys, Martin Smith, Peter Juchniewicz, Jason Kos, Josh Padmos, Michael Sloane, Hans Toreeke.

Senior Squad:

Darren Moore, Jim Cresnar, Brad Wieczorek, Fouad Umlil, Steve Angelov, Martin Lau, Wayne Bailey, Adam Dearing, Ty Turner, Neville Smith, Karl Freeman, Craig Beckett, Glenn Moore, Danny Gordon, Michael Nechakoski, Neil Owens.

TANCHEVSKI THE NEXT ZANE?

Former Breakers striker Clayton Zane will be expecting to make a big effort in the U/23 Young Socceroos series against New Zealand next month if he is to clinch a spot in the Australian Olympic team for 2000.

The 20-year old, recently signed with Northern Spirit for next season.

The Olympic squad went into camp yesterday (Monday) in Canberra, and will play the first match against the Kiwis in Townsville on June 13.

From there, game two is at Oakes Oval, Lismore on June 17 and the final match will be played at Coffs Harbour three days later.

Another future star, Chris Tanchevski, Newcastle Breakers' youth team striker, scored the second goal for the Australian Institute of Sport in their 4-1 win over Adelaide City in the National Youth League Grand Final at Olympic Park.

This topped off a great year for the player who is contracted to the Breakers for the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season.

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND 10

1ST GRADE

Cessnock	2	Belmont Swansea	2
Easts Maitland	3	Broadmeadow	0
Weathertex	3	Adamstown	1
Weston	1	Highfields	0
Edgeworth	1	Hamilton	0

Wallsend v Toronto (cancelled in all grades)

RESERVE GRADE

Cessnock	4	Belmont Swansea	2
Easts Maitland	3	Broadmeadow	1
Adamstown	1	Weathertex	0
Weston	1	Highfields	0
Edgeworth	4	Hamilton	4

UNDER 18'S

Cessnock	1	Belmont Swansea	0
Broadmeadow	2	Easts Maitland	0
Weathertex	3	Adamstown	0
Hamilton	2	Edgeworth	1

UNDER 19'S

Lambton Jaffas	0	Singleton Strikers	0
West Wallsend	4	Mayfield United	0
Budgewoi	2	Beresfield	0
Phoenix	1	Beresfield	0
Dudley Redhead	6	Tingira	0
Thornton	0	Pasminco	0
Budgewoi	2	Stockton	1

2HD 2ND DIVISION RESULTS ROUND 10

1ST GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	1	Singleton Strikers	1
West Wallsend	3	Mayfield United	1
Beresfield	4	Budgewoi	0
Beresfield	3	Phoenix	0
dudley Redhead	3	Tingira	1
Pasminco	2	Thornton	0
Budgewoi	3	Stockton	1

RESERVE GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	2	Singleton Strikers	1
West Wallsend	3	Mayfield United	0
Budgewoi	4	Beresfield	1
Beresfield	3	Phoenix	0
Dudley Redhead	4	Tingira	0
Pasminco	1	Thornton	0
Budgewoi	4	Stockton	0

2HD 2ND DIVISION POINT SCORE

1ST GRADE

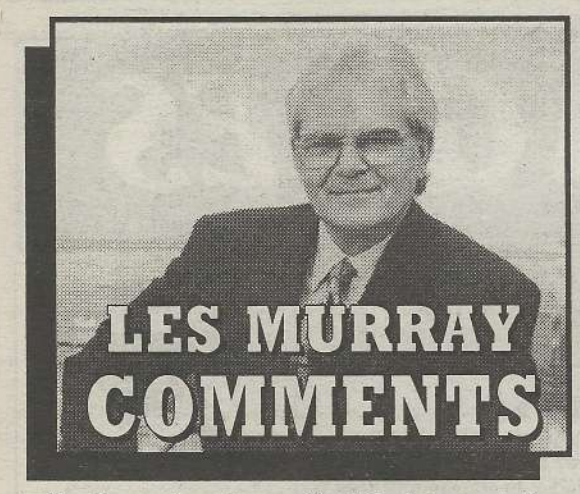
Beresfield	22
Phoenix	21
Dud-Redhead	20
W Wallsend	19
Lambton	17
Budgwoi	17
Thornton	15
Pasminco	9
Mayfield	8
Stockton	5
Singleton	4
Tingira	0

RESERVE GRADE

Beresfield	22
Lambton	21
W Wallsend	20
Budgewoi	18
Pasminco	16
Phoenix	15
Dud-Redhead	15
Mayfield	12
Thornton	12
Stockton	8
Tingira	1
Singleton	1

UNDER 19'S

Dud-Redhead	25
W Wallsend	22
Budgewoi	18
Stockton	14
Singleton	14
Phoenix	14



It's all so eerily quiet on the Italian front. I mean the World Cup front. Not since after the 1982 World Cup, which of course they won, has Italy been paid so little respect going into the tournament.

Sure, they are up there somewhere among the favourites but, I suspect, that is only because of their past record not current credentials.

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GIUOCO CALCIO

Italy 1905

It rather reminds one of the way the Azzurri were evaluated, which was not very highly, before the 1982 World Cup. "We are going to the bullfight as the bull rather than the matador," thundered the demanding Italian press.

After the labourious way Italy played in their last group qualifier against Glenn Hoddle's England, in which England were more 'Italian' than Italy, the Azzurri's chances of actually lifting the France 98 trophy were virtually buried by most neutral or even Italian pundits.

They were surely a most disjointed lot that day, with virtually no midfield and therefore no supply to the strikers.

They then went on to oust Russia in the play-offs, playing bravely in the second home leg, but they didn't do enough to suggest they will be a threat to the claims of Brazil, France or Germany.

But then it was a similar story before '82. Yet history tells us Italy had a splendid World Cup that year, starting slowly, squeezing through the group stage then picking up momentum to beat a magnificent Brazil on the way and then the old reliable Germany to the final. They were a good team, and deserving winners but, I don't believe a great one.

In Paolo Rossi they had a superbly lethal finisher, in

Del Piero

Bruno Conti a delightfully skilful and intelligent flank midfielder, and, in the late Gaetano Scirea, an educated and elegant libero. And of course they had a magnificent coach in Enzo Bearzot.

But I believe today's Italy, at least player-for-player, can be as good. Look at the dilemma of current coach Cesare Maldini who has to leave out of his squad at least one of these three: Alessandro Del Piero, Roberto Baggio and Gianfranco Zola.

Despite the high volume of foreigners dominated the Serie A, Italy has a small army of high quality, efficient strikers queuing to take probably just one spot: Vieri, Ravanelli, Casiraghi, Inzaghi, Chiesa and now Moriero.

In Peruzzi they have a most reliable goalkeeper while the wingbacks Panucci and Paolo Maldini are as good as or better than any in the world. And certainly better than what Italy had in those positions in '82: Gentile and Cabrini. In the area of central defence there is no Scirea but there are some very reliable defenders.

Midfield is the only real problem area for these is no genius playmaker coming from deep to orchestrate the team, but then there wasn't one in 1982 either. Albertini and Dino Baggio will surely be favoured, given their USA 94 experience as should the dynamic Di Matteo of Chelsea.

So on balance Italy should not be such a bad team and indeed can be a very good team. That being the case I am wary about this lack of trust in their potential.

Remember 1982 and don't discount their chances.

It might be yesterday's news but something has to be said about the disgrace that has become the affair over the Brisbane football venue for the 2000 Olympics. If you are not up with the story, originally Suncorp Stadium, the home of the Brisbane Strikers and a natural football ground, was appointed as the Brisbane venue.

The appointment brought with it the need for re-development, funded from monies set aside for venue development by SOCOG. After the Olympics Suncorp would have been a highly improved, modern ground and soccer would have benefited.

But the Borbidge Coalition Queensland Government had other ideas. They switched the venue to the Gabba, a vast prairie of a ground used for cricket and Aussie rules. And why did they switch it? Yes folks, because there are more votes in cricket and Aussie rules.

So soccer brings the Olympics to Brisbane, soccer brings Olympic funding to Brisbane and who benefits in the end? Cricket and Aussie rules. Thank you soccer.

Well, I guess you can give your views at the ballot box.

Soccer Sites 'On the Net'

Review by Stuart Jones

'OZ Soccer' net site

This is the be all and end all of Australian Soccer sites on the web. There are no other sites like this one. It has been going for four seasons and has the 'runs on the board'. Anyone who is anyone in soccer in this country has had an input into this site. Built up by Thomas Esamie and Greg Baxter, to name but two of the main people involved, it has obviously taken hours of work and a few computers to make this site.

If Soccer Australia ever built their own official site it would pale into insignificance compared to OZ soccer. It has the history of the league, the national team, all youth levels, and women's soccer. It goes through the Aussies abroad, has tipping competitions and chat lines. It is built in a very easy to use format that does not confuse even the beginner on the net. But be warned! You may get caught in it for hours as there is so much to go through.

There is every game the Australian national team has

played, many of them with match reports. Put simply, you have to go and have a look for yourself because the praise I give it is nothing compared to the product itself. You will notice many of the people involved in other sites help out on this site, because this is the first and best Aussie Soccer site.

If you need to know where a game is to be played, or want to catch a match result then go to this site. It is not a 'news' site as such, it provides game reports, where as the chat section is more about talking of rumours surrounding the game. This provides the supporter of Australian soccer an almanac of results, but in a colourful way. It is the first site you should go to when discovering Australian Soccer on the Net.

Information: 10
Up to Date: 8
Ease of Use: 10
Links: 10
Presentation: 10
Overall Rating: 96%

Oz soccer's net site: http://bix.thehub.com.au/ozsoccer/welcome.html

'Club Marconi' net site

This club's site is great for any Marconi fan. Yes it gives you all the game results, the tables etc., always smack up to date. However, it offers you a lot more. If you support Marconi from afar you can log in and see photos of the players, the stadium, and many other things surrounding the football club. There is also a news section where the media releases are printed.

The site has also has club captain Brad Maloney's comments and the editor, Ross Musso, also gives you the latest news from the club. It is linked in with Club Marconi's (the social club which has restaurants, nightclubs and bars) site so you can check out what is happening there.

It is easy to you as it is light on irrelevant material, and it does not take long to have a look. The links page is very thorough, and feedback on the site is always welcome. For a club site it is great and if you are a Marconi fan this site should not be missed if you want to stay up to speed with your team.

Information: 7
Up to Date: 9
Ease of Use: 10
Links: 10
Presentation: 8
Overall: 88%

Club Marconi's net site: http://www.clubmarconi.com.au/

LETTER'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX ...

FIFA MUST LISTEN TO AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

Like thousands of fans in Australia only now am I beginning to get over our World Cup tragedy of Nov. 29. However, I am also fed up with FIFA, and the treatment we get from them. It's time we demand a 'fair go', now is the time to push our case while Johansson and Blatter are lobbying for the votes to get FIFA's top job. To improve our football Australia must demand:

1. Entry to a continental championship for the national team,
2. Entry to a continental club championship for our best clubs,
3. The creation of an U/23 youth cup,
4. Creation of a world club championship,
5. Direct world cup qualification for Oceania winner,
6. The right to host the Confederation Cup,
7. Right to host the World Cup in the near future
8. The establishment of common world cup qualifying dates.

FIFA must allow the Socceroos to play in a continental tournament, preferably the Asian Cup or an even an expanded Copa America or Gold Cup. Excluding us from Asia due to geographical grounds is ridiculous. The precedent has been set with Mexico being allowed to play in South America.

We need to demand our clubs be included in the Asian Champions League and Cup Winners Cup. Our clubs are asking for a larger market to sell their enterprises to. This is what every other league is entitled to. A chance to retain our top players from a small number of western European Leagues which rape the world of its talent.

We want an U/23 Youth Cup to be developed to give our young players that extra step up into the national team.

We demand a world club championship with entry for our top club, and automatic world cup qualification for the Oceania winner. If we are not given equal status in the eyes of FIFA then Oceania must be disbanded and added to Asia. FIFA must prove they are really committed to Oceania and equality between confederations. Every confederation deserves representation at the World Cup. Oceania now has as many members as South America yet they will have five countries in France. How's that for equality?

We want the right to host the Confederation cup in the next few years to compensate for our lack of home internationals.

Australia should be acknowledged as a prospective World Cup host, which has the desire and capability to put on the world's biggest event. The 2000 Olympic football tournament is a chance to show our capabilities.

The SE Asia/Pacific region is an area that needs the Cup to encourage the sport's growth in this region and if the World Cup is to be rotated on a continental basis, Australia should not be overlooked.

We demand uniform World Cup qualifying dates allowing us unconditional access to our top players. It is outrageous that we are deprived of our best players for four years and then face the uncertainty of their availability due to club commitments even for World Ccup games.

Finally, I think it is time that FIFA gave us official recognition for the incredible progress that the sport has made at all levels in this country in the last ten years.

And recognition should be given to the unique problem of isolation, which we face in football.

Only Mexico shares our problem.

'Stan'
Earlwood, NSW

Editor's note:

I dread to ask which 'we' you refer to and will leave that for our esteemed readers to work out, but as for the address, here it is:

FIFA, Hitzigwig 11, 8030 Zurich, Switzerland.

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1998 WORLD CUP

Brazil	4.00	Bulgaria	67.00
Germany	7.00	Paraguay	81.00
Italy	8.00	Chile	101.00
France	8.00	Cameroon	141.00
England	9.00	Austria	141.00
Holland	9.00	Mexico	141.00
Argentina	13.00	USA	201.00
Spain	13.00	Sth Africa	201.00
Yugoslavia	21.00	Morocco	251.00
Croatia	31.00	Scotland	251.00
Romania	31.00	Sth Korea	401.00
Nigeria	31.00	Saudi Arabia	401.00
Denmark	34.00	Jamaica	501.00
Norway	41.00	Japan	501.00
Columbia	67.00	Iran	661.00
Belgium	67.00	Tunisia	661.00

NSW STATE LEAGUES

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 12

FIRST GRADE

Blacktown City 1
A Holst 79
Ryde City Gunners 1
J Boudaher 70

Macarthur Rams 3
T Whiddett 18
E Williams 29/61
Sutherland Shire 1
C Hobbs 31

Central Coast 3
P Preston 15
D Caisley 20
P Roberts 64
Canterbury Berries 4
Own Goal 8
J Talevski 72/89
S Hantzis 79

Parramatta Eagles 1
S Petrovski 24
St George Saints 0

Leichhardt Tigers 2
J Buonavoglia 86
D Guzzo 90
Bonnyrigg WE 4
Own Goal 28
J Mancino 53
C Luff 60
R Gomez 71

Bankstown City 2
Z Adioski 44
R Angevski 59
Eastern Suburbs 1
J Bennett 89

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Canterbury Berries	12	7	2	3	23	16	7	23
Blacktown City	11	7	1	3	23	13	10	22
Macarthur Rams	11	7	1	3	21	16	5	22
Eastern Suburbs	10	6	2	2	23	14	9	20
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	1	3	20	13	7	19
Leichhardt Tigers	11	5	3	3	20	15	5	18
Bonnyrigg We	11	5	3	3	20	16	4	18
Bankstown City	12	5	3	4	19	17	2	18
Central Coast	11	2	2	7	18	20	-2	8
Ryde City Gunners	11	2	2	7	11	22	-11	8
St George Saints	11	1	2	8	11	29	-18	5
Sutherland Shire	11	1	2	8	5	23	-18	5

Under 21

Blacktown City 1 drew Ryde City Gunners 1, Macarthur Rams vs Sutherland Shire p/p, Canterbury Berries 5 bt Central Coast 2, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt St George Saints 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Eastern Suburbs 3 bt Bankstown City 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bonnyrigg WE	11	9	0	2	40	13	27	27
Eastern Suburbs	11	8	2	1	31	8	23	26
Parramatta Eagles	11	8	1	2	27	14	13	25
Macarthur Rams	11	7	0	4	21	12	9	21
Canterbury Berries	12	17	0	5	29	26	3	21
Blacktown City	11	6	2	3	23	17	6	20
Leichhardt Tigers	11	6	2	4	25	20	5	17
St George Saints	11	5	0	6	17	19	-2	15
Ryde City Gunners	11	3	2	6	14	29	-15	11
Bankstown City	12	1	1	10	11	28	-17	4
Sutherland Shire	10	1	1	8	13	31	-17	4
Central Coast	12	1	1	10	15	49	-34	4

Under 18

Blacktown City 4 bt Ryde City Gunners 3, Macarthur Rams vs Sutherland Shire p/p, Canterbury Berries 3 bt Central Coast 2, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt St George Saints 0, Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Bankstown City 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	11	10	1	0	40	7	33	31
Blacktown City	11	8	1	2	23	11	12	25
Macarthur Rams	11	7	2	2	20	10	10	23
Bankstown City	12	6	3	3	22	12	10	21
Leichhardt Tigers	11	5	4	2	25	19	6	19
Ryde City Gunners	11	5	2	4	18	18	0	17
Eastern Suburbs	11	3	4	4	17	22	-5	13
Bonnyrigg WE	10	3	1	6	14	19	-5	10
Central Coast	12	2	2	3	18	26	-8	8
St George Saints	10	2	2	6	9	18	-9	8
Canterbury Berries	12	2	2	8	10	27	-17	8
Sutherland Shire	10	0	2	8	6	33	-27	2

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE

First Grade: Moorebank Sports vs AC United p/p, Stanmore Hawks 3 (E Briscoe 56m, P Cacciola 84/90m) bt Hills United 0, Belmore Hercules 1 (A. Petratos 31m) drew Bathurst '75 1 (A. Collins 43m), Auburn United 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0, Fairfield Bulls 4 (D. Iocca 49m, S. Talevski 57/82m, Own Goal 77m) bt Manly Warringah 1 (D. Rosenthal 32m), Hurstville City 3 (J. Melissourgis 53m, T. Pontidas 85m, S. Bakafoukas 89m) bt Illawarra Lions 1 (Own Goal 50m), Rockdale City Suns 2 (G. Trposki 8m, A. Chumkovski 40m) bt Mt Pritchard 1 (J. Di-Francesco 25m).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fairfield Bulls	14	11	0	3	36	16	20	33
Stanmore Hawks	13	10	0	3	35	15	20	30
Bathurst'75	14	7	5	2	19	15	4	26
Hurstville City	14	8	1	5	29	17	12	25
Penrith Panthers	12	6	3	3	17	12	5	21
Rockdale City Suns	15	7	0	8	31	28	3	21
Auburn United	14	6	3	5	20	24	-4	21
Moorebank Sports	12	6	2	4	18	21	-3	20
Illawarra Lions	15	5	1	9	19	23	-4	16
Manly Warringah	13	4	3	6	20	19	1	15
AC United	13	3	4	6	20	25	-5	13
Hills United	13	3	3	7	12	26	-14	12
Belmore Hercules	11	2	2	7	11	23	-12	8
Mt Pritchard	13	1	1	11	15	38	-23	4

Under 21

Rockdale City Suns 5 bt Illawarra Lions 2, Moorebank Sports vs AC United p/p, Hills United 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Bathurst '75 2 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Auburn United 2, Manly Warringah 1 drew Fairfield Bulls 1, Hurstville City 4 bt Illawarra Lions 2, Rockdale City Suns 4 bt Mt Pritchard 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hills United	13	9	2	2	35	12	23	29
Fairfield Bulls	14	8	3	3	50	23	27	27
AC United	12	8	2	2	26	14	12	26
Manly Warringah	13	7	4	2	29	15	14	25
Rockdale City Suns	15	7	3	5	38	32	6	24
Auburn United	14	7	2	5	30	31	-1	23
Bathurst '75	15	6	4	5	28	15	13	22
Hurstville City	13	6	1	6	25	27	-2	19
Penrith Panthers	12	5	3	4	21	18	3	18
Moorebank Sports	12	4	5	3	23	21	2	17
Stanmore Hawks	14	4	2	8	21	26	-5	14
Mt Pritchard	13	4	2	7	23	29	-6	14
Belmore Hercules	11	1	1	9	11	37	-26	4
Illawarra Lions	15	0	0	15	13	73	-60	0

Under 18

Moorebank Sports vs AC United p/p, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Hills United 0, Bathurst '75 6 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Auburn United 0, Manly Warringah 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Illawarra Lions 10 bt Hurstville City 0, Mt Pritchard 2 drew Rockdale City Suns 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bathurst '75	15	11	3	1	39	13	26	36
Manly Warringah	13	10	1	2	35	11	24	31
Stanmore Hawks	14	10	0	4	28	14	14	30
Fairfield Bulls	13	6	2	3	23	14	9	26
Illawarra Lions	15	8	1	6	54	29	25	25
Moorebank Sports	12	7	1	4	24	11	13	22
Hills United	13	6	4	3	25	15	9	22
Penrith Panthers	12	6	1	5	19	18	1	19
AC United	11	5	1	5	19	19	0	16
Mt Pritchardt	13	4	2	7	23	21	2	14
Rockdale City Suns	14	2	3	9	22	30	-8	9
Belmore Hercules	11	2	0	9	11	39	-28	6
Hurstville City	12	1	2	9	10	42	-32	5
Auburn United	14	0	1	13	10	65	-55	1

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE

First Grade: Liverpool City vs Dulwich Hill p/p, Hurstville ZSC 1 drew Hajduk Wanderers 1, Sydney District 3 bt University of NSW 0, Gladesville United 1 drew Parramatta City 1, Greystanes 1 drew Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Alexander Warriors 6 bt Arncliffe Scots 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Dulwich Hill	10	9	1	0	35	8	27	28
Hajduk Wanderers	11	7	4	0	28	8	20	25
Alexander Warriors	10	6	1	3	25	16	9	19
Greystanes	11	5	3	3	16	15	1	18
Hurstville ZSC	10	4	4	2	18	14	4	16
Sydney District	12	5	0	7	17	25	-8	15
Arncliffe Scots	12	4	1	7	22	26	-4	13
Mt Druitt Town	11	3	3	5	21	22	-1	12
Liverpool City	10	3	1	6	9	19	-10	10
Gladesville United	11	2	3	6	17	29	-12	9
Parramatta City	9	2	2	5	12	22	-10	8
Uni of NSW	11	2	1	8	10	26	-16	7

Under 21

Liverpool City vs Dulwich Hill p/p, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Hurstville ZSC 1, Sydney District 1 bt University of NSW 0, Gladesville United 2 bt Parramatta City 0, Greystanes 3 bt Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Alexander Warriors 2 bt Arncliffe Scots 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Greystanes	11	10	0	1	26	9	17	30
Hajduk Wanderers	11	8	0	3	45	11	34	24
Mt Druitt Town	11	7	0	4	27	14	13	21
Dulwich Hill	10	6	2	2	34	14	20	20
Uni of NSW	11	5	3	3	17	10	7	18
Gladesville United	11	4	3	4	19	15	4	15
Hurstville ZSC	11	5	0	6	25	27	-2	15
Parramatta City	10	3	2	5	18	20	-2	11
Liverpool City	10	2	3	5	18	23	-5	9
Alexander Warriors	10	3	0	7	14	29	-15	9
Sydney District	11	2	1	6	9	47	-38	7
Arncliffe Scots	11	2	0	9	7	40	-33	6

Under 18

Liverpool City vs Dulwich Hill p/p, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Sydney District 5 bt University of NSW 2, Gladesville United 4 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 bt Greystanes 0, Arncliffe Scots 6 bt Alexander Warriors 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Mt Druitt Town	11	10	1	0	37	3	34	31
Gladesville United	11	8	1	2	47	12	35	25
Hajduk Wanderers	11	7	3	1	59	9	50	24
Liverpool City	10	7	2	1	21	6	15	23
Sydney District	11	7	1	3	35	17	18	22
Greystanes	11	5	0	6	22	15	7	15
Hurstville ZSC	10	4	1	5	9	22	-13	13
Dulwich Hill	10	3	2	5	25	16	9	11
Parramatta City	10	3	1	6	28	25	3	10
Uni of NSW	11	2	0	9	18	27	-9	6
Arncliffe Scots	12	2	0	10	11	79	-68	6
Alexander Warriors	10	0	0	10	2	83	-81	0

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE

First Grade: Hakoah 1 bt Glebe Wanderers 0, Hawkesbury City 3 bt Colo Colo 2, Flamencos 2 bt Sydney University 1, Maroubra United 1 bt Trasandinos 0, White City 2 drew Granville Greenisland 2, Prospect United 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

PART TIME COACH — WOMEN'S SOCCER

The NSW Institute of Sport is looking for a coach to coordinate and implement its women's soccer program. The successful candidates will work closely with the National Women's coach to prepare and coordinate annual training programs, individual and squad training sessions and sports science services. Experience in the following areas is essential:

- Preparation of training programs for elite players
- Knowledge of strength and conditioning and sports science
- A minimum level 11 NCAS accreditation (and willingness to work towards level 111 during employment term)

Experience in coaching at the elite level is desirable.

Total remuneration package is $20,000 p.a. Contract with Soccer NSW is for one year with renewal subject to performance and funding.

For further information, contact Peter Thorne (02) 9629 1800.

Packages available from Sharon Cannard on (02) 9763 0231.

Applications close 5 June, 1998.

New South Wales Institute of Sport
Leading Australian Sport into the 21st Century

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE

Second Grade: Glebe Wanderers 4 bt Hakoah 0, Colo Colo 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Flamencos 3 bt Sydney University 0, Trasandinos 5 bt Maroubra United 1, Granville Greenisland 4 bt White City 1, Prospect United 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE

First Grade: Balmain Tigers 9 bt Lithgow Workmen 2, United Eagles 1 drew Sydney Crescent Star 1, Springwood 12 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Prairiewood United 1 drew Holy Cross Ryde 1, Fraser Park 5 bt CSI Schofield 0, Fairfield Kings 0 drew Marrickville 0, St Josephs 1 drew Nepean District 1.

Second Grade: Balmain Tigers 4 bt Lithgow Workmen 0, United Eagles 5 bt Sydney Crescent Star 4, Springwood 9 bt Earlwood Hermes 3, Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Prairiewood United 0, Fraser Park 1 drew CSI Schofield 1, Fairfield Kings 1 drew Marrickville 1, Nepean District 4 bt St Josephs 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE

First Grade: Liverpool Olympic 3 bt Racing 1, Sporting SCC 2 bt AVA United 1, Eastern Creek Pioneers 5 bt Liverpool Warriors 3, Kosciuszko 4 bt White Valley 1, Auburn Star 3 drew Homenetmen 3.

Second Grade: Liverpool Olympic 2 bt Racing 1, AVA United 3 bt Sporting SCC 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 bt Liverpool Warriors 1, Kosciuszko 2 drew White Valley 2, Auburn Star 2 bt Homenetmen 1.

NSW STATE LEAGUES

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Glebe Wanderers	8	6	1	1	21	12	9	19
Camden Tigers	9	5	1	3	21	18	3	16
Trasandinos	9	5	1	3	20	19	1	16
Sydney Univeristy	7	4	1	2	22	10	12	13
Prospect United	7	4	1	2	17	10	7	13
Colo Colo	7	4	0	3	13	13	0	12
White City	8	2	4	2	16	15	1	10
Maroubra United	8	3	0	5	18	17	1	9
Hakoah	7	2	1	4	5	13	-7	7
Flamencos	9	2	1	6	19	27	-8	7
Granville Greenisland	7	1	3	3	13	21	-8	6
Hawkesbury City	6	2	0	6	12	23	-11	6

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Trasandinos	9	6	2	1	20	12	6	20
Flamencos	9	5	2	2	14	10	4	17
Sydney University	8	5	1	2	20	10	10	16
Glebe Wanderers	8	4	2	2	14	6	8	14
Prospect United	8	4	1	3	12	8	4	12
Camden Tigers	9	4	1	4	16	15	2	12
White City	8	3	2	3	21	19	2	11
Granville Greenisland	7	2	1	4	9	12	-3	7
Hawkesbury City	8	2	1	5	7	12	-5	7
Colo Colo	7	2	1	4	10	18	-8	7
Maroubra United	8	2	1	5	13	22	-9	7
Hakoah	7	1	1	5	5	18	-13	4

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fraser Park	8	7	1	0	23	4	19	22
Prairiewood United	8	5	3	0	24	12	12	18
Fairfield City KIngs	9	4	4	1	15	5	10	16
Sydney Crescent Star	9	5	1	3	23	15	8	18
Nepean District	9	4	3	2	12	10	2	15
CSI Schofields	8	4	1	3	18	16	2	13
Holy Cross Ryde	8	3	2	3	14	13	1	11
Marrickville	8	2	3	3	17	14	3	9
Balmain Tigers	7	2	2	3	17	12	5	8
St Josephs	7	1	4	2	10	14	-4	7
Springwood	6	2	0	4	20	18	2	8
United Eagles	8	1	34	4	12	19	-7	6
Lithgow Workmen's	9	2	0	7	14	38	-24	6
Earlwood Hermes	8	0	1	7	6	35	-29	1

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fraser Park	8	5	3	0	19	8	11	18
Nepean District	9	5	2	2	22	9	13	17
Balmain Tigers	8	5	2	1	19	9	10	17
Holy Cross Ryde	8	4	2	2	17	8	9	14
CSI Schofields	8	4	1	3	19	14	5	13
Springwood	6	3	3	0	19	6	11	12
Prairiewood United	8	4	0	5	27	20	7	12
Fairfield City Kings	9	3	2	4	18	19	-1	11
St Josephs	8	3	1	4	16	18	-2	10
Earlwood Hermes	8	3	0	5	18	25	-7	9
Lithgow Workmen's	9	3	0	5	13	26	-13	9
Marrickville	8	2	2	4	12	15	-2	8
Sydney Crescent Star	9	2	0	7	20	38	-18	8
United Eagles	9	2	0	6	13	38	-23	6

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
AVA United	7	4	0	3	20	10	10	12
Auburn Star	8	3	3	2	17	13	4	12
Sporting SCC	9	34	3	3	154	18	-3	12
Homenetman	7	3	2	2	15	11	4	11
Eastern Creek Pioneer	5	3	2	0	12	8	4	11
White Valley	8	3	2	3	12	13	-2	11
Bossy	7	2	4	1	15	14	1	10
Liverpool Olympic	9	1	5	5	13	15	-2	7
Kosciusko	6	4	1	1	16	13	3	6
Racing	8	0	5	3	9	13	-4	5
Liverpool Warriors	8	1	2	5	9	24	-15	5

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
AVA United	7	4	0	3	20	10	10	12
Auburn Star	8	3	3	2	17	13	4	12
Sporting SCC	9	3	3	3	154	18	-3	12
Homenetman	7	3	2	2	15	11	4	11
Eastern Creek Pioneer	5	3	2	0	12	8	4	11
White Valley	8	3	2	3	12	13	-2	11
Bossy	7	2	4	1	15	14	1	10
Liverpool Olympic	9	1	5	5	13	15	-2	7
Kosciusko	6	4	1	1	16	13	3	6
Racing	8	0	5	3	9	13	-4	5
Liverpool Warriors	8	1	2	5	9	24	-15	5

NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 13

Thursday May 28
Macarthur Rams v Eastern Suburbs
Lynwood Park — 8.00pm

Saturday May 30
Bonnyrigg W.E. v Blacktown City Demons
Serbian Centre — 6.00pm
Sutherland Sharks v Central Coast
Seymour Shaw Park — 6.00pm

Sunday May 31
Eastern Suburbs v St George Saints
Wentworth Park — 3.00pm
Canterbury M/ville v Bankstown City Lions
Henson Park — 3.00pm
Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta Eagles
Lambert Park — 3.00pm
Ryde City v Macarthur Rams
Gabbie Stadium — 3.00pm

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FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
White Valley	8	6	1	1	27	10	17	19
Sporting SCC	8	6	0	2	20	7	13	18
AVA United	7	6	0	1	19	8	11	18
Eastern Creek Pioneer	5	5	0	0	20	6	14	15
Liverpool Olympic	9	4	2	3	17	13	4	14
Auburn Star	8	4	1	3	15	20	-5	13
Kosciusko	6	2	2	2	14	13	1	8
Racing	8	2	0	6	11	22	-11	6
Liverpool Warriors	8	1	1	6	8	18	-10	4
Homentmen	7	0	1	6	9	23	-14	1
Bossy	6	0	0	6	2	22	-20	0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE — DIVISION ONE

First Grade: Gladesville Ravens 4 bt Nepean Panthers 0, Marconi Fairfield 7 bt UWS Macarthur 0, Sydney United 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, NSW INST/Academy 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Moorebank Sports vs NNSW ITC/Academy p/p.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Sutherland Sharks	8	6	1	1	23	7	16	19
NSW Inst/Academy	6	6	0	0	20	3	17	18
Marconi Fairfield	9	5	2	2	47	8	39	17
NNSW ITC/Academy	6	4	2	0	15	3	12	14
Sydney United	7	4	1	2	30	9	21	13
Gladesville Ravens	8	4	0	4	15	17	-2	12
Uws Macarthur	9	3	0	6	18	30	-12	9
Nepean Panthers	7	1	0	6	10	34	-24	3
Moorebank Sports	6	1	0	5	4	33	-29	3
Eastern Suburbs	8	0	0	8	6	44	-38	0

Second Grade: Gladesville Ravens 8 bt Nepean Panthers 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt UWS Macarthur 1, Eastern Suburbs 1 drew Sydney United 1, Sutherland Sharks 6 bt NSW INST/Academy 0, Moorebank Sports vs NNSW ITC/Academy p/p.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Marconi Fairfield	9	6	2	1	23	7	16	20
Sutherland Sharks	8	6	0	2	40	9	31	18
Gladesville Ravens	8	5	1	2	26	9	17	16
NNSW ITC/Academy	6	5	0	1	25	6	19	15
Sydney United	7	4	1	2	25	8	17	13
Eastern Suburbs	8	3	3	2	13	6	7	12
NNSW INST/Academy	6	2	0	4	19	16	3	6
Moorebank Sports	6	1	0	5	7	26	-19	3
Nepean Panthers	7	1	0	6	4	43	-39	3
UWS Macarthur	9	0	1	8	2	54	-52	1

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE — DIVISION TWO

Roselands 2 bt Bathurst City 1, St George Association 1 bt Gladesville Ravens 0, Shoalhaven Association 9 bt Bankstown City 1, Wollongong City 4 bt Sutherland Shire 0, Central Coast WSA 3 bt Manly Warringah 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Central Coast WSA	7	6	1	0	34	9	25	19
St George Assoc	7	6	1	0	25	3	22	19
Shoalhaven Assoc	7	5	2	0	31	6	25	17
Roselands	7	4	1	2	22	18	4	13
Manly Warringah	8	4	1	3	19	19	0	13
Bathurst City	9	2	2	5	18	21	-3	8
Wollongong City	7	2	1	4	10	13	-3	7
Sutherland Shire	8	2	0	6	19	32	-13	6
Gladesville Ravens	8	1	2	5	7	19	-12	5
Bankstown City	8	0	1	7	8	53	-45	1

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SOCCER WEST COAST

HAY SHINES IN GLORY AWARDS

By Richard Kreider

The Perth Glory best player awards have been dominated by New Zealand for the second successive year. Last week's lavish function was held at the Burswood Showroom.

Close to 600 people who paid $100 per ticket waited till 11pm before it was announced that that tall sweeper Danny Hay won the 'Most Glorious Player' award, while Gavin Wilkinson picked up the Supporters' trophy for the second successive year.

The nuggetty red head in fact clinched both of the presitgious awards last season.

The runner-up for the MGP was midfielder Gareth Naven who collected 81 points, eight short of third-placed Bobby Despotovski, which clearly showed the inconsistency of other Glory players.

Hay scored one goal last season and that was against eventual champions South Melbourne, and was sidelined with an injury in Round 23 and 24.

Skipper Naven also netted one goal, but became the only player to feature in all the 26 league matches, his consistency not able to overhaul the Hay performance in the end.

Meanwhile the ooaching position is getting closer to being finalised. It is now down to a short-list of four after an initial interest of about 40 applicants worldwide.

It is believed that Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic has been approached but the strongest tip is ex-New Zealand international Wynton Rufer. The former Bundesliga star is a frequent visitor to the West as his wife hails from that part of the worlld.

The former Werder Bremen forward last paid a lightning visit last year for a run with the Glory boys, but decided on remaining in the J-league after a proposal put to him by the Glory did not impress.

WA AMATEUR & SOCIAL SOCCER ASSOCIATION
ROUND 6 — 24th May, 1998
AUSTWEST HOMES PREMIER DIVISION
Reserves in brackets ( )

WA Maccabi	0	Kwinana United	3	(2,4)
Forrestfield United	3	Shamrock Rovers	3	(1,0)
Sorrento Amateurs	3	Murdoch University	2	(1,3)
Beechboro W E	0	Hamersley Rovers	3	(0,2)
Morley Windmills	1	Mandurah City	4	(2,1)
Canning Langford	0	Fremantle United	0	(1,6)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Hamersley Rovers	6	5	0	1	19	6	15	13
Fremantle United	6	3	3	0	14	5	12	9
Shamrock Rovers	6	3	3	0	14	7	12	7
Kwinaana United	6	3	2	1	17	6	11	11
Mandurah City	6	3	1	2	20	9	10	11
Canning Langford	6	2	3	1	8	7	9	1
Forrestfield United	6	2	2	2	17	19	8	-2
Murdoch Uni	6	2	0	4	12	12	6	0
Sorrento	6	2	0	4	11	19	6	-8
Beechboro W E	6	1	1	4	11	21	4	-10
Maccabi	6	1	1	4	6	25	4	-19
Morley Windmills	6	0	2	4	8	21	2	-13

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Morley Windmills	6	6	0	0	15	5	18	10
Hamersley Rovers	6	5	1	0	20	4	16	16
Fremantle United	6	5	0	1	26	6	15	20
Kwinana United	6	4	0	2	20	9	12	11
Shamrock Rovers	6	3	0	3	21	12	9	9
Mandurah City	6	2	3	1	18	11	9	7
Canning Langford	6	2	2	2	13	13	8	0
Forrestfield United	6	2	1	3	6	12	7	-6
Murdoch Uni	6	2	0	4	11	20	6	-9
Sorrento	6	1	1	4	11	25	4	-14
Beechboro W E	6	0	0	6	3	21	0	-18
Mccabi	6	0	0	6	4	30	0	-26

OLA SPORTS COVER DIVISION ONE

Cloverdale Chindits	0	Lynwood Chile	2	(2,4)
Perth Royals	2	Balga	1	(1,1)
South Perth United	5	Stirling Macedon	0	(3,2)
Colo Colo	1	Belmont Villa	1	(2,2)
University of WA	2	Naval Base Wescoa	2	(3,0)
Subiaco	1	Joondalup City	5	(0,1)
Perth Azzuri	1	Spearwood Dal	2	(2,0)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Joondalup City	6	5	9	1	24	7	15	16
Lynwood Chile	6	4	1	1	20	10	13	10
Spearwood Dalmatinac	6	3	2	1	22	12	11	10
South Perth United	6	3	2	1	18	14	11	4
Subiaco	6	3	1	2	20	14	10	6
Cloverdale Chindits	6	3	1	2	17	16	10	1
Perth Royals	6	3	0	3	7	22	9	-15
Belmont Villa	6	2	2	2	10	9	8	1
Stirling Macedonia	6	2	2	2	16	16	8	0
Naval Base Wescoa	6	1	4	1	11	9	7	2
Perth Azzurri	6	1	3	2	9	12	6	-3
UWA	6	1	1	4	14	20	4	-6
Colo Colo	6	0	2	4	8	17	2	-9
Balga Amateurs	6	0	1	5	5	22	1	-17

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Joondalup City	5	4	1	0	24	7	13	17
Naval Base Wescoa	6	4	1	1	16	8	13	8
Subiaco	6	4	0	2	15	10	12	5
Perth Royals	6	3	1	2	16	19	10	-3
UWA	5	3	0	2	19	7	9	12
Colo Colo	6	2	3	1	19	15	9	4
Perth Azzurri	6	3	0	3	15	16	9	-1
Cloverdale Chindits	6	2	2	2	10	10	8	0
Spearwood Dalmatinac	6	2	2	2	7	10	8	-3
Balga Amateurs	6	2	1	3	17	13	7	4
Stirling Macedonia	6	2	0	4	12	18	6	-6
Belmont Villa	6	1	2	3	6	18	5	-12
South Perth United	6	1	1	4	12	20	4	-8

OLA SPORTS COVER DIVISION TWO

Carlisle	6	Perth Entertainers	2	(2,1)
Morley United	5	Willeton	1	(1,2)
Rockingham City	3	Gosnells City	4	(1,9)
North Perth United	7	Yanchep	0	(6,0)
Cockburn United	3	North Beach	1	(2,0)
Rochester Amateurs	5	Ballajura	2	(2,3)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Cockburn United	6	5	1	0	24	7	16	17
Ballajura	6	3	1	2	12	14	10	-2
Carlisle	5	3	0	2	30	14	9	16
Morley United	6	2	1	3	16	16	7	0
Willeton	6	2	1	3	14	17	7	-3
Yanchep	5	20	3	11	15	6	-4	
Rockingham City	6	2	0	4	12	29	6	-17
North Beach	6	1	1	4	6	12	4	-6
Gosnells City	6	0	1	5	6	25	1	-19
Perth Entertainers	6	0	0	6	6	21	0	-15

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
North Perth United	6	6	0	0	38	3	18	35
Ballajura	6	6	0	0	17	5	18	12
Willeton	6	4	0	2	16	18	12	-2
Cockburn United	6	3	1	2	16	12	10	4
Rochester Amateurs	6	2	2	2	21	15	8	6
North Beach	6	2	2	2	14	14	8	0
Carlisle	6	2	2	2	10	14	8	-4
Gosnells City	6	2	0	4	17	21	6	-4
Morley United	6	2	0	4	12	22	6	-10
Perth Entertainers	6	1	0	5	14	25	3	-11
Yanchep	6	0	3	3	12	23	3	-11
Rockingham City	6	1	0	5	9	24	3	-15

DIVISION THREE

Canning Suleymaniye		Burswood United		
Balcatta Ilinden	4	Cockburn City	1	(3,5)
Stirling Panthers	1	Vietnam United	5	(1,3)
Beldon	1	Calcio Rebels	4	(1,3)
Kingsley	1	Olympic Kingsway	2	(4,3)
Floreat Athena	3	Singleton Wanderer	0	(1,1)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Balcatta Ilinden	6	4	1	1	20	10	13	10
Calcio Rebels	6	4	1	1	15	7	12	8
Floreat Athena	6	4	0	2	15	10	12	5
Olympic Kingway	6	4	0	2	15	10	12	5
Kingsley	6	3	1	2	14	9	10	5
Beldon	6	3	1	2	12	11	10	1
Cockburn City	6	3	0	3	14	12	9	2
Vietnam United	6	2	2	2	16	15	8	1
Canning Suleymaniye	5	1	1	3	11	16	4	-5
Singleton Wanderers	6	1	1	4	8	18	4	-10
Burswood United	5	1	0	4	8	17	3	-9
Stirling Panthers	6	1	0	5	10	23	3	-13

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Kingsley	6	4	1	1	13	10	13	3
Beldon	5	4	0	1	19	7	12	12
Cockburn City	6	4	0	2	15	14	12	1
Canning Suleymaniye	5	3	1	1	22	9	10	13
Vietnam United	5	3	1	1	16	10	10	6
Calcio Rebels	6	3	1	2	12	14	10	-2
Balcatta Ilinden	6	3	0	3	14	21	9	-7
Burswood United	5	2	0	3	14	9	6	5
Floreat Athena	6	1	2	3	7	14	5	-7
Singleton Wanderers	6	1	1	4	11	14	4	-3
Stirling Panthers	6	1	1	4	5	11	4	-6
Olympic Kingsway	6	1	0	5	11	26	3	-15

LIFECARE DIVISION 4

Airport United	5	Ibero United	1	(8,2)
Bye		Morley Golden Lily		
Curtin University	0	Babylon United	0	(2,4)
The Condores	4	Mundaring	2	(4,4)
Perth International	4	Stirling Pelister	7	(2,4)
Forrestfield United	1	Phoenix United	5	(1,1)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Airport United	6	4	1	1	25	9	13	16
Forrestfield United	6	4	1	1	15	9	13	6
Babylon United	5	4	0	1	22	6	12	16
Curtin University	6	4	0	2	26	11	12	15
Phoenix United	6	3	3	0	18	10	12	8
Mundaring	6	3	1	2	16	20	10	-4
Morley Golden Lily	6	3	0	3	16	26	9	-10
Stirling Pelister	5	2	1	2	17	18	7	-1
The Condores	6	2	1	3	18	20	7	-2
Ibero United	6	2	0	4	6	22	6	-16
Perth International	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	-16

OLA SPORTS COVER PREMIER DIV SOCIAL

Bye		Ferndale Crusaders		
Willeton		Bye		
Q P Pioneers	2	North Beach Cats	0	
St James Gate	5	Gwelup Croatia	1	
Old Bailey Taverners	12	Shamrock Rovers	0	
Bassendean C'nians	7	Joondalup	0	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Ferndale Crusaders	6	6	0	0	34	6	18	28
Old Bailey Taverners	6	5	0	1	28	10	15	18
Bassendean Calies	6	5	0	1	20	5	15	15
Q P Pioneers	6	4	0	2	16	9	12	7
Willeton Social	6	4	0	2	16	10	12	6
St James Gate	6	3	1	2	14	8	10	6
North Beach Cats	6	3	0	3	17	26	9	-9
Gwelup Croatia	6	2	0	4	12	25	6	-13
Joondalup City	6	1	1	4	9	21	4	-12
Q.P. Athletic	6	1	0	5	2	10	3	-8
Shamrock Rovers	6	1	0	5	6	32	3	-26

OLA SPORTS COVER SOCIAL DIVISION ONE

Alcoa	4	Kypros	0	
Kelmscott	4	Timor Oan	2	
Lynwood Colts	6	Glendalough Gunners	1	
Royal Perth Hospital	5	Uni Marys	0	
Secret Harbour		Olympic Kintsway		
QP Social	6	Rocky Rangers	1	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Lynwood Colts	6	6	0	0	32	9	18	23
Kelmscott Brewers	6	4	1	1	14	8	13	6
Rocky Rangers	6	4	0	2	17	12	12	5
Queens Park Social	6	3	2	1	16	9	11	7
Alcoa	6	3	1	2	13	7	10	6
Royal Perth Hospital	6	2	2	2	23	22	8	1
Kypros United	6	2	2	2	17	17	8	0
Glendalough Gunners	6	2	2	2	18	21	8	-3
Uni Marys	6	2	0	4	20	15	6	5
Timor Oan	6	2	0	4	14	26	6	-12
Olympic Kingsway	5	0	0	5	5	23	0	-18
Secret Harbour	5	0	0	5	5	25	0	-20

GLOBAL ONE SOCIAL DIVISION 2

Perth Royals	7	Kwinana United	2	
White Eagles Serbia	7	Mandurah City	0	
Manchester Utd Supp	6	Hamersley Rovers	2	
Subiaco	1	Fremantle United	1	
North Perth United	6	Uni Real	1	
Girrawheen	4	Murdoch University	2	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
North Perth United	6	5	1	0	31	9	16	22
White Eagles Serbia	6	4	1	1	25	7	13	18
Fremantle United Social	6	4	1	1	14	8	13	6
Man Utd Supporters	6	4	1	1	14	8	13	4
Girrawheen	6	4	1	1	17	13	13	4
Subiaco Social	6	2	2	2	14	20	8	-6
Murdoch Uni	6	2	1	3	15	12	7	3
Perth Royals Social	6	2	1	3	15	12	7	3
Hammersley Rov Soc	6	1	1	4	14	26	4	-12
Mandurah City Social	6	1	1	4	10	27	4	-17
Uni Real	6	1	0	5	10	23	3	-13
Kwinana United	6	0	2	4	11	28	2	-17

PERTH GLORY SOCIAL DIVISION 3

Dacia Perth		Wembley Nomads		
Saprissa	0	Ferndale Crusaders	3	
Wembley Downs	1	Inglewood Falcons	2	
ECU Estudientes	6	Uwa Seacows	0	
Morley Windmills	2	Canning Cosmos	2	
Lynwood Colts	4	Joondalup City	4	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
ECU Estudientes	6	5	0	1	35	12	15	23
Inglewood Falcons Soc	6	5	0	1	31	12	15	19
Wembley D W'derers	6	3	0	3	24	10	9	14
Wembley Nomads	5	3	0	2	20	11	9	9
Lynwood Colts	6	2	2	2	18	16	8	2
Saprissa	6	2	0	4	9	15	6	-6
UWA Seacow	6	2	0	4	10	17	6	-7
Dacia Perth	5	1	1	3	7	27	4	-20
Morley Windmills	6	1	1	4	12	34	4	-22
Joondalup City	6	1	1	4	12	38	4	-26
Canning Cosmos	6	0	3	3	11	21	3	-10

PERTH GLORY SOCIAL DIVISION 4

Curtin Podiatry	1	QP Rangers	8	
Wanneroo City Social	2	Saints	2	
Sutherlands Park	2	XI Men In Flight	0	
Path Panthers	7	Fremantle United	2	
Sorrento Sands	10	Murdoch University	1	
Kingsley	6	Naval Base Wescoa	3	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Saints	6	5	1	0	48	7	16	41
Path Panthers	6	5	1	0	36	11	16	25
Wanneroo City Social	6	4	1	1	27	9	13	18
QP Rangers	6	3	1	2	19	17	10	2
Sutherland Park	6	3	1	2	22	24	10	-2
Kingsley	6	3	0	3	15	22	9	-7
Naval Base Wescoa	6	2	1	3	19	26	7	-7
Sorrento Sands	6	2	0	4	20	14	6	6
Curtin Podiatry	6	2	0	4	10	30	6	-20
Fremantle Utd Social	6	2	0	4	7	27	6	-20
XI Men in Flight	6	1	0	5	8	18	3	-10
Murdoch Uni	6	1	0	5	12	38	3	-26

OLA SPORTS COVER MASTERS DIVISION 1

Gosnells Ghosts	9	Cockburn United	1	
Whitford City	0	Beldon	2	
Kingsley	2	Inglewood Falcons	3	
Balga	11	Dame Gr Makedonia	3	
Armadale	8	Rocky Rovers	4	
Canning Langford	2	Perth City	1	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Inglewood Falcons Mts	6	5	1	0	21	7	16	14
Balga Vets	6	4	1	1	28	14	13	14
Armadale	6	4	1	1	29	17	13	12
Gosnells Ghosts	6	3	2	1	18	10	11	8
Beldon Vets	6	3	1	2	20	15	10	5
Kingsley	6	3	1	2	19	16	10	3
Canning Langford	6	3	0	3	10	18	9	-8
Whitford City Mts	5	2	1	2	18	6	7	12
Perth City Masters	6	1	2	3	16	19	5	-3
Cockburn United Mts	5	1	0	4	19	21	3	-2
Rocky Rovers	6	0	2	4	13	24	2	-11
Dame Gruev M'donia	6	0	0	6	5	49	0	-44

AUSTWEST HOMES MASTERS DIVISION TWO

Subiaco	1	Perth City	2	
Cockburn City	3	Ashfield Dynamos	2	
Whitford City	9	Hamersley Rovers	0	
Cloverdale Chindits	5	Murdoch University	1	
Forrestfield United	1	Morley City	3	
Wembley Downs	5	Leeming Strikers	1	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Wembley D W'derers	6	6	0	0	26	8	18	18
Cockburn City Mts	5	5	0	0	26	4	15	22
Cloverdale Chindits	6	4	0	2	29	18	12	11
Ashfield Masters	6	4	0	2	24	16	12	8
Perth City	6	4	0	2	14	12	12	2
Whitford City	6	3	0	3	18	13	9	5
Leeming Strikers	6	2	1	3	13	22	7	-9
Morley City Masters	5	2	0	3	17	18	6	-1
Hamersley Rovers Mts	6	2	0	4	9	26	6	-17
Forrestfield United	6	1	0	5	9	16	3	-7
Subiaco Masters	6	1	0	5	11	22	3	-11
Murdoch Uni	6	0	1	5	4	25	1	-21

MASTERS DIVISION THREE

Kelmscott		Mandurah City		
Melville	3	Sorrento Bobs	2	
Kingsley	2	Ferndale Crusaders	3	
Forrestfield United	2	North Perth Celtic	1	
Bye		North Lake		
Bye		Joondalup City		

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Melville City	6	5	1	0	16	6	16	10
Joondalup City	6	4	2	0	12	5	14	7
Sorrento Bobs	6	3	1	2	13	9	10	4
North Lake	6	2	4	0	8	4	10	4
Kingsley	6	2	3	1	14	9	9	5
Mandurah City Masters	5	3	0	2	10	9	9	1
North Perth Celtic	6	2	2	2	9	7	8	2

ACCESS HOME LOANS MASTERS DIV FOUR

Fremantle City	4	Canning Cosmos	0	
Melville City	1	Beldon	3	
Bye		Balga		
South Perth United	2	Sorrento 45s	0	
Armadale	4	Mundaring	2	
Wembley Downs	5	Rocky City Vets	0	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Diff
Forrestfield United	6	2	1	3	6	10	7	-4
Ferndale Crusaders	6	2	1	3	13	18	7	-5
Kelmscott Brewers	5	1	3	1	8	8	6	0
Path Panthers	6	0	0	6	0	12	0	-12

Soccer Canberra

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By Graham Cooke

YOUNG STARS SIGN FOR GO-AHEAD COSMOS

PLUS RASIC ON OVERSEAS PLAYER-BUYING MISSION

Canberra Cosmos has beaten bigger clubs to sign two players from National Youth League champion side the Australian Institute of Sport.

The cheers had hardly died away after the AIS's 4-1 Grand Final win over Adelaide City, before Cosmos coach Rale Rasic had secured the signatures of gun midfielder David Arranz and top goalkeeper Grant Barlow. They are the 12th and 13th players to sign terms with the Ericsson Cup club so far in a hectic off-season.

Arranz is already Canberra-based, having played his junior soccer with the Belnorth club. He joined the AIS from the ACT Academy of Sport soccer program.

A ball-playing midfielder with a devastating turn of speed, the youngster his team-mates call 'Spaniard' said his signing meant he had already achieved two of his soccer ambitions.

"The first was to win the youth league with the AIS, and the second was to join the Cosmos," he said.

"Now I want to gain selection for the Young Socceroos and after that, well the sky's the limit.

"I believe it's important never to give up. Many things come and go, but if you really want something it's important to remember that nothing comes easily."

Barlow has already tasted international football playing for his country, having represented at U/17 level with the Joeys, then graduating to the Young Socceroos.

From NSW, he said his father introduced him to soccer at the age of seven "and ever since then I have wanted to be a professional goalkeeper."

No sooner had he completed the deals, than Rasic said he will be off to Europe this week with the aim of signing some experienced professionals. "I also have some ideas which I will be putting to clubs over there," he added.

One of the stops is certain to be at Molineux, the home of English Nationwide First Division club Wolverhampton Wanderers, where Rasic's friend and former Sydney Olympic team boss, Mick Hickman, is on the coaching staff.

The frenetic activity at the Cosmos contrasts with last year when the club was virtually moribund until half-way through the winter, but Rasic said it is essential to demonstrate to the Canberra public that things are on the move.

"People are impatient for success," he said. "After three seasons on or near the foot of the table, there is the beginning of disillusionment among our supporters.

"Worse still, I have also detected the acceptance of being second best among some of last year's playing staff, and that is why there is a general shake-up going on.

"Many of the young players I am bringing in may lack experience, but they do not accept anything other than winning as being sufficient.

"We have to produce the goods — and it must be sooner rather than later."

Rasic repeated statements he made after joining the Cosmos with five weeks to go before the end of the regular season, that the club now has an excellent administration and it is up to him to get the playing side working at the same level of efficiency.

"If I can do that — and the two units combine well — then we have the makings of a successful football club," he said.

He hoped to make an announcement on the naming of an assistant before leaving for overseas. "However, I will not be using the word 'assistant', because the new man will have his own areas of responsibility and will not simply be assisting me," the go-ahead coach concluded.

The successful candidate is almost certain to come from the Canberra area.

CITY KEEP BRYANT IN JOB

Two years ago Steve Bryant publicly criticised then Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons for hanging on to his job after the Ericsson Cup club had made a miserable start to the season.

"Anyone who loses the first five games of a season is doing something wrong, and should step aside," he said at the time.

Last week Bryant was on the verge of practicing what he preaches.

His Canberra City had lost their opening four ACT Premier League matches and the mostly youthful squad of players were beginning to lose heart. Less than a week later City were off the bottom of the table and in a cup final!

First the club gained their opening league win by beating Queanbeyan City 4-2, then shocked the local soccer world with a 1-0 win over the talent-packed Capital City Suns in the Federation Cup semi-final on Wednesday night last week.

Canberra's match winner was Solomon Islander Peter Usumae who, says Bryant, "just turned up for training one night and said he wanted to play."

With about 30 minutes gone Usumae pounced on the ball during a goalmouth scramble, and blasted it home from close range.

The Suns, without play-maker Ilija Prenzoski, put the pressure on in the second-half, and veteran striker Tony Lemezina missed two clear-cut chances. However, City were always dangerous on the counter-attack and missed opportunities of their own.

With Peter Buljan drifting in and out of the game and Shane Lyons not allowed to add his weight to the attack from midfield, the Suns simply ran out of ideas.

Now Bryant, who affirmed he would probably have quit had Canberra lost the Queanbeyan City game, is instead making plans for the club's first piece of silverware since it won the Federation Cup in 1991.

City's opponent in the final will be Belconnen United, who survived some shaky moments early on to end up comfortable winners over Canberra Olympic 2-0.

United coach Lino Fiorese said his side were lucky to take the lead against the run of play in the first-half, Scott Manson finishing off after good approach work down the right flank.

After that the league leaders slowly began to get on top, and the second goal, headed home by Marko Perinovic from a cross by Geoff Howarth, was no surprise.

Olympic team boss Vic Fernandez said the absence of defender Steve Vanzetti and frontman Baz Giampaolo though injury had hurt Olympic.

"Even so, we were more than holding our own in the first half, but Belconnen wore us down," he said.

"They are an excellent side...better than us on the night."

The result was revenge for Belconnen's loss to Olympic in the final of last year's competition. The match-up with City will be a repeat of the controversial 1997 semi-final which City initially won 3-1, then were ejected after it was ruled they had fielded an ineligible player.

An appeal body reinstated City and ordered the match replayed, Belconnen eventually winning 3–2.

CREEK ENDS BELS' 40-GAME STREAK

Master striker Steve Lazzari, back in favour with Canberra Rockets representative coach Ian Heywood, celebrated in the best possible way with weekend goals that ended one of the longest unbeaten runs in ACT Premier League history.

His strikes at either end of the game against league leader Belconnen United set up Weston Creek Royals' 2-1 win, and the first regular-season defeat for United since it lost to the Creek 40 matches and two years ago.

It could not have come at a better time for Lazzari who made his peace with Heywood during the week after being dropped from the Rockets for missing a training session. A runaway winner of the Premier League's Golden Boot in 1997, his form this year has been patchy.

But on Sunday he came out on top in a duel with the league's best defence, and immediately handed the credit to coach Jimmy Bland.

Midfielder Shane Coleman may still lack something in height and weight, but in precious little else. On Sunday he was the Creek's engine room — a tireless runner popping up all over the field, throwing in ferocious tackles, adding extra options to the forward line with surging runs, fearless in taking on opponents.

In many ways he typified his team's fighting spirit on the day — forced to the sidelines for treatment after a clash with Neil Stoddart early in the second half, he was back on inside 90 seconds.

After conceding the early goal United attacked in waves, winning corners and free kicks in dizzying succession. There were moments when a score seemed inevitable: Marko Perinovic got past Martin Lazzari to turn the ball back across the face of the goal, only to see it pass, unhindered by friend or foe, to go out for a goal kick beyond the far post.

Or in the final frantic seconds when Perinovic beat goalkeeper Steve Wilkinson, and Martin Lazzari somehow stayed airborne long enough for the ball to graze his head and deflect away, via the crossbar, for a corner.

The first goal came after eight minutes, Steve Lazzari shooting into a ruck of players and getting a slight deflection which turned goalkeeper Blair Machin's already difficult task into an impossible one.

Belconnen's equaliser waited until the 80th minute. Midfielder Ray Junna, one of the best dead-ball strikers in the competition, floated in a beautifully weighted free kick. The Creek defence made the mistake of concentrating too hard on the towering Jason Dunn, and allowed Scott Manson to sneak in beside him and smack a header past Wilkinson.

But after being pinned in its own half for so long, the Creek came away and scored the winner almost at once. Robbie Paragalli found the extra energy to outpace a tiring defence, picked out Lazzari with his pass and the striker joyfully completed the move, midfielder Hani Adhami helping the ball over the line.

That result allowed Monaro, now the only unbeaten side in the competition to sneak into the lead on goal difference after beating Canberra Olympic 2-0 in a second v third contest.

John Rakic and young substitute Gianni Gugliemin scored for Monaro. In between Olympic squandered the ideal opportunity to make a game of it when Takis Arvanitis missed a penalty.

For Olympic coach Vic Fernandez, the return of experienced stars Baz Giampaolo and Steve Vanzetti from injury, and the drafting of Australian Institute of Sport midfielder Davaid Arranz, cannot come soon enough.

Olympic's woes allowed Capital City Suns to climb into third place after a routine 2-0 win over the University of Canberra. Shane Lyons put his side into the lead with what is becoming his trademark strike from well out. In the second half the league's leading scorer, Peter Buljan, maintained his goal-a-game ratio with a strike into the left hand corner of the net.

An angry Canberra City team boss Steve Bryant said his young side was back to square one after it had lost 3-2 to Gungahlin Juventus.

"Just when I think we're making progress, they do this to me," he complained. "The tactics were all wrong — long balls down the middle — I don't tell them to do that."

Matt Valeri gave Juventus the lead, Mikey Katz equalised in the second half before George Cattancah and Gabbi Exposito made the game safe.

A late strike by Daniel Bennett made the final score respectable.

Juventus coach Walter Valeri, who has seen his team make steady progress since taking over in round three, said defender Alex Tsiokos was his man of the match.

Canberra City is back on the bottom of the table after Queanbeyan City gained two points from the 1-1 draw with Canberra Deakin.

Dane Gjorgievski gave Queanbeyan the lead; Luka Ujdur equalised from a David Milin pass, then Gjorgievski almost earned a shock win for his club when he chipped goalkeeper Paul Jones, only to see the ball go out off the crossbar.

KELLY STILL UNSIGNED

Canberra Cosmos captain Norman Kelly has still not come to terms with the club over a contract for next season.

Officials have been saying the tough and skilful Irishman has been on the verge of signing for the last two weeks, but the deal remains uncompleted.

Brought to the Cosmos from Malaysia by former coach Mike Lyons, the former Northern Ireland junior international has been with the club since day one. No-one questions his committment — although some argue he too easily picks up cautions and suspensions — and his work off the field as a development officer and spokesman has been highly praised.

Kelly has his detractors, but at 27 he is at the peak of his game and on his day can be an inspiration in the middle of the park. It would be a shame if a way cannot be found around the impasse.

Meanwhile, one player who will definitely not be returning is Kim Jung Sig. The Korean joined the club in the second half of the season and showed some skilful touches, but his inability to communicate with his team-mates proved a major difficulty and he has now returned home.

IEA Federation Cup Semi-Finals

Canberra Olympic	0	Belconnen United	2
Canberra City	1	Capital City Suns	0

Final: June 28

NOVELL ACT P/L

Division 1 - Round 7 • Sunday May 31

Belconnen United	v	Capital City Suns	Hawker Oval
Canberra City	v	Weston Creek Royals	Majura Oval
Canberra Deakin	v	Gungahlin Juventus	Deakin Oval
Canberra Olympic	v	Queanbeyan City	O'Connor Oval
Monaro	v	Uni of Canberra	High Street

U/23 noon. Firsts 2pm

Division 2 - Round 8 •- Saturday May 30

ANU	v	Defence Academy	North Oval
Burns Club	v	White Eagles	Kambah No 2 (1)
Canberra Defence	v	Tuggeranong ied	RMC Oval
Cooma	v	O'Connor Knights	Nijong Oval

U/23 1pm. Firsts 3pm

Premier League • Division One

Belconnen United	1	Weston Creek Royals	2
Gungahlin Juventus	3	Canberra City	2
Queanbeyan City	1	Canberra Deakin	1
Canberra Olympic	0	Monaro	2
Uni of Canberra	0	Capital City Suns	2

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaro	6	3	3	0	0	15	6	15
Belconnen United	6	5	0	0	1	12	7	15
Capital City Suns	6	3	2	0	1	16	12	13
Canberra Olympic	6	3	1	0	2	13	11	11
Gungahlin Juventus	6	3	1	0	2	10	8	11
Weston Creek Royals	6	3	1	0	2	8	9	11
Canberra Deakin	6	1	3	0	2	7	8	9
Queanbeyan City	6	1	1	0	4	14	20	5
Uni of Canberra	6	0	2	0	4	10	19	4
Canberra City	6	1	0	0	5	10	15	3

Under 23: Belconnen United 6 Weston Creek Royals 1, Gungahlin Juventus 4, Caanberra City 2, Queanbeyan City 0 Canberra Deakin 4, Canberra Olympic 0, Monaro 4, University of Canberra 1 Capital City Suns 2.

Points: Juventus 18, Canberra Deakin 14, Queanbeyan City 11, Belconnen United 11, Canberra City 10, University of Canberra 9, Capital City Suns 8, Monaro 8, Weston Creek Royals 5, Canberra Olympic 0.

Youth League: Goulburn City 0 Belconnen United 7, Gugahlin Juventus 2 Canberra City 1, Queanbeyan City 2 Canberra Deakin 14, Canberra Olympic 1 Radford College 2, University of Canberra 4 St Edmound's College 0, Weston Creek Royals 6 Belconnen Strikers 1.

Points: Belconnen United 17, Radford College 13, Weston Creek 12, Canberra Deakin 11, University of Canberra 11, Gungahlin Juventus 10, Capital City Suns 8, St Edmund's College 6, Belconnen Strikers 6, Canberra City 5, Tuggeranong United 4, Goulburn City 3, Queanbeyan City 0, Canberra Olympic 0.

Division 2

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
ANU	5	4	1	0	0	17	8	14
Burns Club	5	4	1	0	0	17	10	14
White Eagles	6	4	0	0	2	19	8	12
Cooma	6	3	1	0	2	25	13	11
O'Connor Knights	4	2	2	0	0	7	5	10
Tuggeranong United	6	1	1	0	4	10	23	5
Defence Academy	5	1	0	0	4	3	16	3
Canberra Defence	4	0	0	0	4	2	16	0

Reserves: ANU 3 White Eagles 1, Burns Club 9 Tuggeranong United 1, Canberra Defence 5 Cooma 1.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1:
Monaro 0 Belconnen United 4, Belwest 1 Canberra City 1 University of Canberra 7 Blue Light 1, Calwell 1 Ginninderra 1.

Division 2:
ANU II 0 Burns Club 2, Belwest 2 Canberra City 0, ANU 0 Burns Club 2, University of Canberra 2 Gungahlin Juventus 2, Defence Academy 1 Ginninderra 2.

Division 3:
University of Canberra 2 Belconnen United 5, Weston Creek 4 Burns Masters 1.

Division 4:
Tuggeranong United 0 Belconnen United 5, Weston Creek 4 Blue Light 1, Harmonie 5 Calwell 0.

Masters: Tuggeranong United 2 Canberra City 9.

Victorian Soccer Federation

PORT MELB 3 ALTONA 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Port Melbourne Sharks moved into contention for the championship with a 3-1 win over reigning champions Altona Magic on Sunday.

After a shaky start, the Sharks have now established themselves as one of the top sides in the competition after their impressive display against the Magic.

Altona, took the lead on the half hour with a cracking volley from 25 metres by Zoran Petrevski.

Their lead lasted just two minutes with Nick Tsaltas getting the Sharks back on level terms.

Daniel Allsopp's shot was well saved by Darren McGrath but he could do nothing to stop Tsaltas' follow up.

Sash Becvinovski had the chance to give Altona the lead right on half time but hit the post after he cleverly evaded Roddy Vargas.

Tsaltas added a second in the 66th minute, running onto a superb pass from Jim Latinopoulos and slotting past McGrath.

Port were well on top now with Tsaltas and Allsopp a constant threat to the Magic defence.

They wrapped up the points with a third goal in the 78th minute.

Tsaltas' weak shot could only be parried by McGrath and Kosta Caimakamis was in quickly to knock in the rebound.

Becvinovski had another chance shortly after but was thwarted by a terrific Sam Frangos save, further enhancing his status as one of the best emerging 'keepers around.

Sharks: Frangos, Knezevic, Heath (Karakyriakos), R.Vargas, Caimakamis, Tsirtsakis, Latinopoulos, Tsiakos, Allsopp, Tsaltas, Palamaras.

Magic: McGrath, Tasevski, Vasilevski, Micevski, Markovski, Fak, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Velkovski (Sapazovski), Trpcevski, Petrevski.

Votes: 3- Allsopp (PM), 2- Tsaltas (PM), 1- Frangos (PM)

PRESTON 4 BENTLEIGH 4

Preston Lions scored deep into injury time to force an amazing 4-4 draw with Bentleigh Greens on Sunday.

Preston, reduced to ten men shortly before half time were ahead three times, then down 3-4, before grabbing the last gasp goal.

They went behind after 20 minutes, Zoran Todorovski providing the cross for Andy Charalambous to score.

Preston were then given a dubious penalty, referee Robert Benovic saw a foul when Stelios Drakos challenged Joe Tricarico.

Sash Markovski converted the spot kick but then the Lions had Ivan Filipovski sent off for collecting two yellow cards within the space of a minute.

A minute into the second half, Tricarico's terrific run ended with him laying the ball off to Markovski to score his second of the afternoon.

Substitute Nick Van Egmond drew the Greens level, heading in Harry Micheil 'spinpoint cross.

Markovski completed the hat trick when he finished off some good work by Smirnis.

But the Greens fought back and earned themselves a penalty almost immediately, Smirnis bringing down Charalambous and Van Egmond had no trouble beating Lupce Acevski.

Bentleigh then took the lead late in the match, John Papettas scoring after Tom Karapatsos and Van Egmond had set him up.

The Lions earned themselves a point with an equaliser two minutes into stoppage time.

Man of the match Tricarico cut inside his man and finished competently.

Lions: Acevski, Drogriski (Ognenovski), Smirnis, Markovski, Radecki (Sterjovski), Tricarico, Filipovski, Burlak, Ivanov, Lisolajski, Emsovski.

Greens: Clarke, Drakos, Constantinou, McDonagh, Hastie, Sevin (Van Egmond), Micheil, Charlambous, Todorovski (Papettas), Nilo, Karapatsos.

Votes: 3- Tricarico (PL), 2- Markovski (PL), 1- Charalambous (BG)

ST.ALBANS 2 FAWKNER 1

By John Rigas

St.Albans increased their lead on top of the ladder to five points after sending Fawkner Blues towards their second sucessive defeat at Churchill Reserve on Sunday.

Fawkner were reduced to nine players after having Ivan Duzel and goalkeeper Maurice Gonzalez sent off.

Duzel was shown his marching orders in the 27th minute after an incident with St.Albans striker Kon Sianidis. Gonzalez followed suit after 69 minutes when he handled the ball outside his penalty box.

Fawkner struck first blood when striker Ivan Kelic headed the ball past Marjan Vunderl after 31 minutes.

Emmanuel Papas replaced Gonzalez in the Blues goal, Papas conceded the first goal in the 70th minute when Paul Magdic powered his shot from the edge of the box.

Papas was well beaten three minutes later when Krunoslav Razov struck his shot into the goal from close range.

It was not a convincing win from the Saints considering Fawkner were playing with nine men.

Saints: Vunderl, S.Rados, Magdic, Vukadin, Cuze, Razov, Pelja, Silic, I.Rados (Krichian), Karl (Pondeljak), Sianidis (J.Kozic).

Blues: Gonzalez, Tramontana (T.Simsek), Grimuad, P.Ferrante, Schipano, De Santis, Deak (K.Simsek), Biskic, Emmanuele, Duzel, Kelic (Papas).

Votes: 3- Pelja (STA), 2- Cuze (STA), 1- Schipano (FB).

SPRINGVALE WE 1 MOORABBIN CITY 1

By Milan Ninovic

Moorabbin City played out an exciting 1-1 draw with Springvale White Eagles at Kingston Heath Sporting Complex on Sunday afternoon.

Springvale introduced Adelaide Sharks defender Alex Kuzmanovic to its team, strengthening a squad that has been ravaged by injuries this season.

The White Eagles took the lead in the 14th minute through an own goal, when Moorabbin's Justin Scrobogna deflected a shot from Jim Gacovski past Robert Brian and into his own net.

Peter Di Iorio was unlucky not to score after he rounded Bruce McLaren but shot wide.

A minute before the break, City were on level terms when David Hanna produced a low shot which eluded the diving Brian.

Cameron Leopold could have added a second for Moorabbin but was denied by a fine save with just Brian to beat.

Both teams had the opportunity to win the contest, but poor finishing and great goalkeeping was the order of the day.

Moorabbin's Leopold played an outstanding game in midfield and deserved his man of the match status

City: McLaren, Davie, Graham, Marley, Jackson, Colosimo, Leopold, Hanna, Scrobogna, Costa (McMullen), Durand.

White Eagles: Brian, Wallace, M.Marinkovic, Kuzmanovic, Culibrk, Styczen, Gacovski (V.De La Plaza), R. Marinkovic, Cracium (Seci), Di Iorio

Votes: 3-Leopold (MC), 2-M.Burlak (SWE), 1-Culibrk (SWE)

THOMASTOWN 3 BULLEEN 2

By George Koukeris

Thomastown Zebras defeated Bulleen Inter Kings 3-2 at Partridge Reserve on Sunday, their first victory over the Kings in three attempts.

The Zebras started on the right foot, keeping close tabs on Bulleen's lethal forward line and Bulleen's Anthony Grbac and Damian Guglielmi were busy feeding the Kings strikers plenty of opportunities to score.

The breakthrough occured in the 36th minute as the Kings' Damon Collina intercepted a high ball from Grbac, and he headed tamely towards the ground but the misjudgement of 'keeper/coach Mauro Raponi allowed the ball to sneak through.

Thomastown were determined to come back into the match before the break. In the 44th minute the call was answered when Damian Grganovic crossed accurately to incoming Nick Lazarevski who finished with a clean header.

In the second stanza, both teams were prepared to take the game to the wire. Feverishly pushing forward, both sides created countless efforts.

In the 70th minute, the Kings introduced Zdravko Atanasovski, a move which paid immediate dividends when he headed the Kings into the lead, nodding in a long Collina cross.

Thomastown clawed back with a quick burst that bagged them two goals.

Lazarevski claimed his second when Grganovic delivered a long ball from the wing and Lazarevski used his pace to outrun the Kings defence and equalise in the 77th minute.

Three minutes later substitute Mohamed El Kersh nailed the Zebras victory with deft touch of the ball that fooled Sean Keogh and sent him the wrong way.

Zebras: Raponi, Boschini, Lakovski, Nedanovski, Grganovic, Iacovitti, Jolevski, D.De Propertis (El Kersh), Gasparini, Cuculevski, Lazarevski.

Kings: Keogh, Valentic, Stojcevski, Everetts, Della Rocca, Waddell, Gnjidic, Sherifovski (Hollingsworth), Grbac, Guglielmi (Atanasovski), D.Collina.

Votes: 3- Cuculevski (TZ), 2- Lazarevski (TZ), 1- Grganovic (TZ)

LEADING SCORERS

15	Karl (St Albans Saints)
14	Markovski (Preston Lions)
13	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
11	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
10	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
	Lazarevski (Thomastown Zebras)
9	Corallo (South Dandenong)
	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
8	Papettas (Bentleigh Greens)
7	Papadopoulos (Green Gully Cavaliers)
	R.Mezensof (South Dandenong)
	Caimakamis (Port Melbourne Sharks)

LEADING VOTES

17	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
16	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
	Magnacca (Sunshine Georgies)
15	Karl (St Albans Saints)
11	Fak (Altona Magic)
	Emsovski (Preston Lions)
	Field (Sunshine Georgies)
	Jolevski (Thomastown Zebras)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Albans Saints	17	12	2	3	36	19	38
Fawkner Blues	17	10	3	4	28	17	33
Altona Magic	17	10	2	5	26	16	32
Port Melbourne Sharks	17	9	3	5	28	17	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	17	6	8	3	22	16	26
Thomastown Zebras	17	7	3	7	30	27	24
Preston Lions	17	7	2	8	33	27	23
Sunshine Georgies	16	7	2	7	19	24	23
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	6	3	7	27	24	21
Bentleigh Greens	17	5	6	6	21	29	21
Springvale White Eagles	17	6	3	8	18	26	21
Moorabbin City	17	4	4	9	19	31	16
South Dandenong	16	3	3	10	25	38	12
Heidelberg United	16	1	4	11	17	38	7

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 9 RESULTS

Westvale	3	North Geelong Warriors	1
Westgate	2	Lalor United	2
Werribee City	2	Altona East	1
Kingston City	0	Doncaster Rovers	0
Melton Reds	1	Richmond	3
Ringwood City	0	Western Suburbs	4
Springvale City	2	Northcote City	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westvale	9	8	1	0	36	6	25
Altona East	9	6	2	1	23	9	20
Western Suburbs	9	5	1	3	25	10	16
Kingston City	9	6	1	2	13	6	16
Northcote City	9	5	1	3	22	19	16
Werribee City	9	5	0	4	20	11	15
Westgate	9	3	5	1	22	15	14
Richmond	9	4	2	3	13	11	14
Doncaster Rovers	9	3	2	4	19	17	11
Springvale City	9	3	1	5	22	21	10
Ringwood City	9	3	1	5	12	17	10
North Geelong Warriors	9	1	2	6	8	18	5
Lalor United	9	0	3	6	10	29	3
Melton Reds	9	0	0	9	7	63	-3

ROUND 10 FIXTURES
Sunday May 31

Western Suburbs v Springvale City
Northcote City v Westvale
Richmond v Ringwood City
Doncaster Rovers v Melton Reds
Altona East v Kingston City
Lalor United v Werribee City
North Geelong Warriors v Westgate

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2 ROUND 9 RESULTS

Cranbourne	1	Altona City	1
East Richmond	2	Broadmeadows City	0
Maroondah Arrows	0	Regent Bulla	1
Oakleigh	1	Old Scotch Waverley	2
Yarraville/Glen Eira	2	Essendon Bruns. Royals	1
Frankston Strikers	0	Knox City	3
Melbourne City	3	Mooroolbark	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yarraville/Glen Eira	9	7	0	2	22	10	21
Oakleigh	9	6	2	1	24	7	20
Knox City	9	6	1	2	22	12	19
Old Scotch Waverley	9	5	1	3	20	12	16
Altona City	9	4	3	2	11	12	15
Melbourne City	9	3	5	1	18	12	14
Frankston Strikers	9	4	2	3	16	10	14
East Richmond	9	3	4	2	8	6	13
Regent Bulla	9	4	1	4	15	18	13
Broadmeadows City	9	2	3	4	13	16	9
Maroondah Arrows	9	1	4	4	7	13	7
Ess. Bruns. Royals	9	2	0	7	10	22	6
Cranbourne	9	1	2	6	13	23	5
Mooroolbark	9	0	2	7	6	32	2

ROUND 10 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Knox City v Melbourne City
Cranbourne v Mooroolbark
Essendon Bruns. Royals v Frankston Strikers
Oakleigh v Yarraville/Glen Eira
Regent Bulla v Old Scotch Waverley
Broadmeadows City v Maroondah Arrows
Altona City v East Richmond

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STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3 ROUND 9 RESULTS

South Springvale	3	Fitzroy City	0
Diamond Valley United	4	Keilor Park	1
Bell Park	1	North Coburg United	1
Chelsea	0	Keysborough	2
Pascoe Vale	0	Banyule City	2
Frankston Pines	2	Stonnington City	3
South Werribee	0	Geelong	5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geelong	9	8	1	0	30	6	25
Stonnington City	9	7	1	1	21	10	22
Diamond Valley United	9	6	2	1	21	8	20
South Springvale	9	5	2	2	16	9	17
Frankston Pines	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Keysborough	9	3	2	4	13	14	11
North Coburg United	9	2	4	3	8	9	10
South Werribee	9	4	1	4	15	25	10
Keilor Park	9	3	0	6	11	20	9
Banyule City	9	2	2	5	11	14	8
Fitzroy City	9	2	1	6	10	18	7
Bell Park	9	2	3	4	12	15	6
Pascoe Vale	9	2	0	7	12	23	6
Chelsea	9	2	0	7	9	23	6

ROUND 10 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Stonnington City v South Werribee
Geelong v South Springvale
Banyule City v Frankston Pines
Keysborough v Pascoe Vale
North Coburg United v Chelsea
Keilor Park v Bell Park
Fitzroy City v Diamond Valley United

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4 ROUND 9 RESULTS

Sandringham City	4	Seaford United	2
South Wantirna	0	Langwarrin	1
Geelong Rangers	3	Melton	2
Williamstown	3	Nunawading City	0
Sunbury United	1	Western Eagles	0
South Caulfield	0	Moreland City	7
Clifton Hill United	2	Corio	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland City	9	8	1	0	27	8	25
Williamstown	9	8	0	1	15	2	24
Corio	9	6	2	1	20	7	20
Langwarrin	9	6	1	2	25	13	19
Seaford United	9	6	1	2	21	12	19
Geelong Rangers	9	5	1	3	16	12	16
South Wantirna	9	4	2	3	22	10	14
Sandringham City	9	4	2	3	27	19	14
Sunbury United	9	3	3	3	10	7	12
Melton	9	2	1	6	15	26	7
Western Eagles	9	1	3	5	10	18	6
Clifton Hill United	9	1	0	8	9	31	3
Nunawading City	9	0	1	8	7	31	1
South Caulfield	9	0	0	9	5	33	0

ROUND 10 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Moreland City v Clifton Hill United
Corio v Sandringham City
Western Eagles v South Caulfield
Nunawading City v Sunbury United
Melton v Williamstown
Langwarrin v Geelong Rangers
Seaford United v South Wantirna

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 9 RESULTS

Lyndale United	4	Glenroy	2
Brandon Park	0	Endeavour United	3
Monbulk	1	Riversdale	1
North Sunshine Eagles	1	Templestowe Eagles	1
Croxton Park	1	Springvale Condors	2
Mitcham United		bye	
Lalor		bye	

Table - Lyndale United 17, Lalor 16, Endeavour United 12, Croxton Park 11, North Sunshine Eagles 11, Riversdale 10, Springvale Condors 9, Mitcham United 9, Glenroy 7, Templestowe Eagles 6, Monbulk 4, Brandon Park 1.

ROUND 10 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Springvale Condors v Lalor
Templestowe Eagles v Croxton Park
Riversdale v North Sunshine Eagles
Endeavour United v Monbulk
Glenroy v Brandon Park
Mitcham United - bye
Lyndale United - bye

DIVISION 2 STH/EAST ROUND 7 RESULTS

Old Camberwell Gram.	1	Newborough/Yallourn	1
Doveton	1	Noble Park	3
Monash University	1	Waverley Wanderers	2
Dandenong	6	Ashburton	3
Dingley City	1	Braeside United	5
Morwell Pegasus	3	Berwick City	2

Table - Waverley Wanderers 18, Morwell Pegasus 16, Dandenong 15, Doveton 14, Newborough/Yallourn 13, Noble Park 12, Monash University 10, Braeside United 5, Ashburton 3, Old Camberwell Gram. 3, Dingley City 1, Berwick City 0.

ROUND 8 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Braeside United v Morwell Pegasus
Berwick City v Old Camberwell Gram.
Ashburton v Dingley City
Waverley Wanderers v Dandenong
Noble Park v Monash University
Newborough/Yallourn v Doveton

DIVISION 2 NTH/WEST/CENTRAL ROUND 7 RESULTS

Sydenham Park	4	South Yarra	0
Hoppers Crossing	1	Brunswick City	5
Broadmeadows United	3	La Trobe University	1
Meadow Park	1	Ballarat	0
Melbourne University	1	Elwood City	2
Keon Park	1	Uni. of Melbourne	4

Table - Brunswick City 16, South Yarra 16, Sydenham Park 12, Uni. of Melbourne 12, Melbourne University 10, Meadow Park 9, Broadmeadows United 8, Ballarat 8, Keon Park 8, Elwood City 8, Hoppers Crossing 4, La Trobe University 1.

ROUND 8 FIXTURES
Saturday May 30

Elwood City v Keon Park
Uni. of Melbourne v Sydenham Park
Ballarat v Melbourne University
Meadow Park v Broadmeadows United
Brunswick City v La Trobe University
South Yarra v Hoppers Crossing

DIVISION 3 STH/EAST/CENTRAL ROUND 7 RESULTS

Endeavour Hills	0	Dandenong Inter	2
Parkmore	1	Caulfield United	6
Heatherton United	4	Collingwood City	1
Clayton Inter	7	North Caulfield	0
Flemington Falcons	1	Noble Park United	2

Ivanhoe United v Thornbury United (game not played)

Table - Clayton Inter 16, Dandenong Inter 16, Heatherton United 14, Caulfield United 13, North Caulfield 12, Noble Park United 11, Flemington Falcons 10, Ivanhoe United 8, Endeavour Hills 6, Thornbury United 5, Collingwood City 3, Parkmore 0.

ROUND 8 FIXTURES
Sunday May 31

Noble Park United v Ivanhoe United
Thornbury United v Endeavour Hills
North Caulfield v Flemington Falcons
Collingwood City v Clayton Inter
Caulfield United v Heatherton United
Dandenong Inter v Parkmore

DIVISION 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 7 RESULTS

North Glenroy	5	Watsonia Heights	0
North Reservoir	4	Darebin United	5
Somerton City	0	Mill Park	3
Brimbank	1	Whittlesea United	2
West Preston	3	Keilor United	2
Northern United		bye	

Table - Somerton City 18, Mill Park 13, Darebin United 12, Brimbank 9, North Glenroy 8, West Preston 8, Northern United 7, North Reservoir 5, Watsonia Heights 4, Whittlesea United 2, Keilor United 1.

ROUND 8 FIXTURES
Sunday May 31

Whittlesea United v West Preston
Keilor United v North Glenroy
Mill Park v Brimbank
Darebin United v Northern United
Watsonia Heights v North Reservoir
Somerton City - bye

"Healthy Diet — Try It"

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 16:

Bulleen Inter Kings 0 - Port Melbourne Sharks 0

Round 17:

Preston Lions 4 (Markovski 3, Tricarico) - Bentleigh Greens 4 (Charalambous, Van Egmond 2, Papettas)
St Albans Saints 2 (Magdic, Razov) - Fawkner Blues 1 (Kelic)
Moorabbin City 1 (Hanna) - Springvale White Eagles 1 (Scrobogna og)
Thomastown Zebras 3 (Lazarevski 2, El Kersh) - Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (D.Collina, Atanasovski)
Port Melbourne Sharks 3 (Tsaltas 2, Caimakamis) - Altona Magic 1 (Petrevski)

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tonight (Tuesday May 26 - Round 17 game)

Heidelberg United v South Dandenong - Olympic Village - kick off 8.30pm

Round 18 - Saturday May 30

Altona Magic v Thomastown Zebras - Paisley Park - kick off 7.00pm

Sunday May 31

Moorabbin City v Port Melbourne Sharks - Kingston Heath Soccer Complex - kick off 3.00pm
South Dandenong v Green Gully Cavaliers - Ross Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Sunshine Georgies v St Albans Saints - Chaplin Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Fawkner Blues v Preston Lions - Smith Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Springvale White Eagles v Bentleigh Greens - Serbian Sports Centre - kick off 3.00pm

Monday June 1

Bulleen Inter Kings v Heidelberg United - Olympic Village - kick off 8.30pm

ERICSSON CUP

Ange Postecoglou, former South Melbourne President Bill Georgiantis and Paul Trimboli show off South's trophy haul.

Brett Emerton of Sydney Ol

Jason Petkovic of Adela

Paul Trimboli, Ange Postecoglo

AWARDS NIGHT

npic receiving his Under 21 Player of the Year award.

Damian Mori receives his top goalscorer award.

e City collects his Goalkeeper of the Year trophy.

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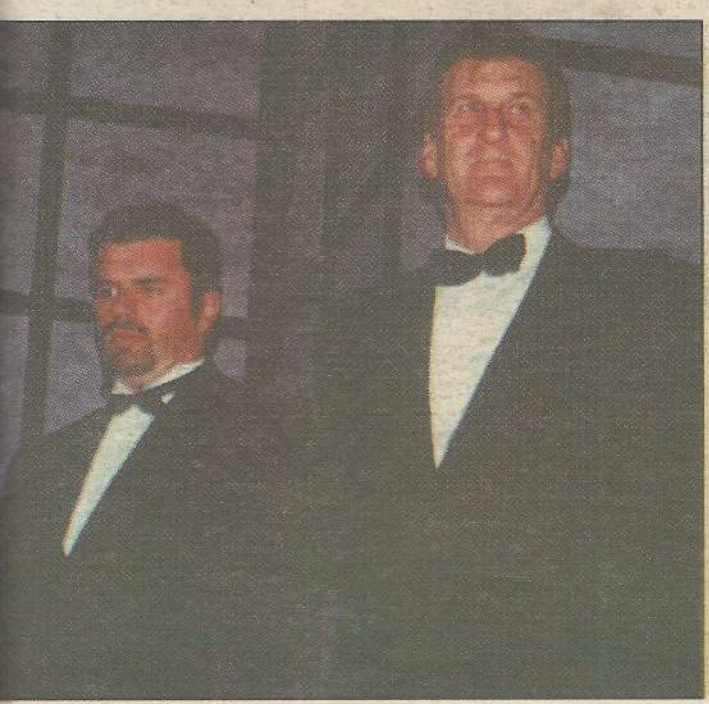

and South Melbourne's No.1 ticketholder, Mr Jeff Kennett.

Mr Theo Skalkos and Neville Wran.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

GEORGETTE LEAKE: FROM HELL AND BACK

To say Queensland's Georgette Leake has been through a rough patch with injuries and illness would be an understatement. Now her selection into the OAP Squad and a scholarship to the AIS has made everything more than worthwhile.

Leake was perhaps considered an outside chance for selection into this elite group, but made an impact with her performances on the wing during last summer's Ansett national league. But the 22-year-old had already been earmarked as potential talent, a member of the previous two national Train-On Squads. Before that, there was the Australian Youth Team, Leake a member of the 1995 side which won the Dallas Cup in the US, and at the end of 1996, up against New Zealand and Korea in Canberra.

Now with everything before her, Leake has taken the opportunity to at last submit herself to the surgeon's knife before the AIS program kicks off on 1 July. For four years, Leake has suffered the pain and trauma of compartment syndrome, a disabling form of shin splints. The timing has worked perfectly for Leake who had long put off the operation, but now should be able to take on her next big challenge finally free of injury.

"I've had it from day one really, but as I've got bigger, it's got worse — really since I've been training hard," said Leake. "For six years, I had cramps in my calves which all has a lot to do with it." She adds that the condition is mainly the result of overtraining, but other factors such as playing surface, shoes, rate of muscle growth also contribute.

Leake explains that there is a sheath around the muscle, and fluid gathers and continually fills the area, hence the swelling. As a result, the nerve is squashed against the fibula bone, and you lose the feeling in your foot. The surgery therefore slices the sheath, relieving the pressure.

"I had to get it done. On the last day of the (recent induction) camp, it was interfering with me on the Sunday game, and I had to stop. But as soon as you stop, it goes. You can ice it for twenty minutes, play another twenty minutes, but as soon as the ice wears off, it hurts again. It's so hard to distinguish how you're going to play in a game."

"Kristy Moore had it done two years ago — the only person I've spoken to who has — but she told me it doesn't hurt. But it was really painful, the worst pain I've ever had, so Kristy's in trouble."

Six weeks after the surgery to both legs, Leake is counting the days to what she and her doctors are hoping is a full recovery. "I'm up to running and having no problems, so the worst is over, and they're saying I should be okay."

The ever active Leake has needed to stay mindful of gradually building the legs back to full strength. On crutches for a week, it was four and a half weeks before she was able to jog. "I still did all my stuff every morning as soon as possible after hospital. I could do push-ups on my knees, sit-ups, etc., but nothing cardiovascular, because of the stress on the shins. Now it's up to me — I stop when it hurts. I'm running twenty minutes, and I'll add on that this week."

As for pulling on the boots and back playing football, Leake has no hesitation. "Next month — I say I will be. At the end of this week, I'll start doing ballwork so I'm not all unco, and my fitness isn't too bad."

Understandably anxious to get back into full swing, especially with Canberra soon on the agenda, Leake is at least now sensible enough to admit the layoff has perhaps been a good thing. "The rest has come in handy probably, because I'm not the type of person to stop."

Delving a little further, it seems the Leake of old was a fanatic for training, which probably goes a long way towards the reason behind her compartment syndrome — and her numerous other problems suffered concurrently during this time period.

Taking up a scholarship at Brewton Parker College in the US southern state of Georgia not long after the Dallas Cup win, Leake's soccer ambitions then started to take a sharp nosedive. Not long after arriving along with fellow Queenslanders Bryony Duus, Toni Braschinini, and Trena Youngblutt, Leake somehow sustained a broken foot, although she is unsure how it happened.

"I don't know — my foot just got worse, and then it felt like I'd trodden on a nail," she recalls. "The coach said I'd be right, so I strapped it up, but I had to stop. My foot exploded, and I couldn't get my boot back on. I went to the doctor just hoping for a tablet, but he started putting my foot in a cast. I'd only just got there (the USA), and even on the flight over, I had the flu — it was a disaster."

"Then I got glandular fever, although I didn't know it," continues Leake. "I was getting the flu every second week, and I thought maybe it was because I was homesick. When I came back home, I was alright, but after playing in the finals here, I just slept for a week."

Leake somehow lasted eleven months at college, but with just a few weeks remaining, finally relented and returned home to the Gold Coast.

Blood tests revealed she had chronic fatigue syndrome, and Leake was ordered to just rest and eat well, there being no real remedy. "I couldn't do anything, I slept for a month. Chronic fatigue basically put me out for eighteen months. Then there were huge highs and lows from the drugs — some days I could train, and others not at all."

Leake finally sought help from a homeopath, and once prescribed arsenic, found she soon snapped out of her debilitating state.

But ignoring the obvious signs, Leake in the meantime had taken up rowing, worried that her soccer career was heading nowhere. In the boat morning and night, the heavy schedule is thought to have contributed to two stress fractures, in her shin and her foot, amidst everything else.

"That was my body saying STOP. I was overtraining, but no-one could tell me — I asked for it. I love training. I always figured practice makes perfect, but I wasn't thinking quality not quantity. I had to learn the hard way. Now I know if I get a cold, I need to stop, get it fixed, and start again. But I don't regret it — it's taught me a lot."

But how did she cope with the whole demoralising experience? "You'll have to ask mum," was Leake's simple reply. "She had a hard time with me, all I wanted to do was play. I just thought this thing's not going to beat me, but it doesn't work like that."

"That's why making the squad was the BEST news, I've been waiting so long to have a go," said Leake, hardly able to contain her excitement. "I'm ecstatic, and can't wait. It's the best opportunity ever. Nothing could bring me down now — nothing will stop me. I know what it's like sitting on the sidelines watching. If I get the opportunity, I'll take it for sure."

These days, Leake knows she must look after herself, and constantly watches what she eats, and ensures she gets enough rest and sleep.

As for Canberra, Leake will have no time to acclimatise, planning to make the move into the AIS residence just two days before the program's commencement, together with Australian captain Sonia Gegenhuber, as this is the earliest they can move into their new home. Leake also wants to stay and finish off the term in mid-June for her Diploma in Fitness and Recreation, from which she will then graduate in September in Canberra.

Then Leake would like to work in a gym, and is aiming to eventually have her own business as a personal trainer.

Her soccer ambitions she says are the same as everyone else, but reveals she would also like to play in other countries later on. "I liked the USA even though I had all the troubles, to see the different systems, and just improve, which is basically the whole purpose."

She says moving away from home she will miss her mum "the most out of everyone", describing her as "real cool", and that they spend a lot of time together. The beach, surfing, and other water sports are also close to her heart. "I'm not sure yet whether to take my board — there's a really good beach near Wollongong."

Strangely, Leake did not play competitive football until the age of sixteen, despite having always played in the street with the boys in the Sydney suburb of Cronulla where she grew up. She says she was about to join a boys' team at age eight, but gave up the idea once the boys starting teasing her. It was not until her family moved to Queensland that she finally signed up with a club.

"I just took it up as something to play on Saturdays — I didn't even know the Australian team or anything existed. I was a late starter, and others were already playing in national teams. I was too scared to try anything because I thought they'd all laugh."

Now with the huge challenge of the AIS, Leake again knows that as the new girl, things won't be easy. "I know it's going to be hard, I'm new and I've a lot to learn. Last camp, I started to realise just how much. I just want to learn heaps off everyone, take a bit of each one's game, then add some flair of my own. And I've a lot to learn defensively, but hopefully it won't be too long before I pick it up."

Mar's Media Upgrade

Commencing this week, the Australian Women's Soccer Association has Janene Mar, on board at its Canberra headquarters in the position of Communications Manager / AIS Administrator.

You will have come into contact with her during the last two years of Ansett Australia Summer Series (national league) and home-based international competition for which I acted as AWSA's media liaison.

Now, she is working full-time at AWSA, and looks forward to being able to better service the media and further develop our working relationship. This is a new position within women's soccer, and its creation is due recognition of the importance of the media in sport. It will no doubt lead to higher levels of media awareness and coverage, and provide opportunities new to the sport.

Her position will also encompass a general communications role, as well as AIS and events administration, and I will continue covering women's soccer as correspondent to the 'Australian & British Soccer Weekly'.

Also heading to Canberra, the Australian Squad members commence their full-time residential scholarships on 1 July 1998 at the AIS. The AIS program is a first for women's soccer in this country, and is structured such that the majority of the national squad will undergo centralised training in preparation for the World Cup Qualifiers (Oct), 1999 World Cup, and 2000 Olympic Games.

Having the Australian Squad together in Canberra will in itself open up exciting promotional and media opportunities.

On the international competition front, Australia's 'Matildas' tour to North Korea for a test series in August/September, the host nation having already earned its place into next year's World Cup. Then in early October, Australia faces traditional rivals New Zealand and four other Oceania nations in this region's World Cup Qualifiers in Auckland. The year will conclude with the staging of the inaugural Australian Cup in December, this year planned as a four-nations event.

DOUBLE CHANCE DRAW FOR QUALIFIERS

Australia can feel happy with the draw for the Oceania World Cup Qualifiers which was endorsed last Saturday week at the Oceania Football Confederation Congress held at the Brisbane Hilton.

"AWSA management is pleased with the outcome of the two game semis and final, which should provide the fairest passage to World Cup 1999," stated AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher, in attendance at the Congress as a co-opted member of the Oceania Women's Football Committee.

Six nations from the region will contest the qualifiers in the race for the single berth to the World Cup. The two pools of three have been defined as follows -

Pool A	Pool B
New Zealand	Australia
Western Samoa	Papua New Guinea
Fiji	Tonga

The actual draw, timing and dates is now the responsibility of host nation New Zealand, but the competition format has been set and endorsed thus:

Teams will play one match against the two opposition teams within their pool to determine placings 1, 2 and 3 in each pool.

The winner of Pool A will play the second team in Pool B in a two game semi-final with the winner decided on aggregate result. The winner of Pool B will play the second team in Pool A in a two game semi-final with the winner decided on aggregate result.

The semi-final winners will play a two game final with the winner — and therefore the World Cup qualifying team — decided on aggregate result.

To decide the complete standings, a single match between the third teams in Pool A and Pool B will determine 5th and 6th placing overall. There will also be a single match between the losing semi-finalists to determine 3rd and 4th overall placings.

Therefore the identity of the World Cup nation will not be decided on a one-off single deciding match, making for a more equitable contest, and going a long way to ensuring the best team wins through.

Naturally Australia and home side New Zealand remain the logical favourites, each having played in a World Cup previously. New Zealand is at present embarking on serious preparation, in Germany and the USA for international matchplay.

But Papua New Guinea have also made great strides over the past year, having drawn 1-1 against New Zealand in their last international, and displayed good attacking qualities in their recent performances at the National Clubs Challenge.

At the Congress, attended by FIFA's highest powers Joao Havelange and Sepp Blatter, along with the presidents of each of football regional confederations, FIFA once again acknowledged that the "future of football is feminine".

This is being illustrated with the number of nations contesting the World Cup qualifiers the world over, which has increased by encouraging numbers.

The entry of six Oceania countries is double that of the two previous campaigns, both then fought out between Australia, New Zealand, and PNG.

That was their year ...

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

ALL STATS COMPILED BY MICKY BROCK

Coach: JOHN KOSMINA

Position	Squad Numbers 1997/98 Season		P.O.Y. PTS
g/keeper	1	Liam BAKER	—
midfield	2	Glenn SPROD	—
defender	3	Matthew AUSTIN	—
defender	4	Shane PRYCE (capt)	4
defender	5	Todd McMANUS	—
midfield	6	Robert IRONSIDE	1
defender	7	Peter RITCHIE	7
midfield	8	Mark WILSON	—
striker	9	Clayton ZANE	17
striker	10	Troy HALPIN	—
striker	11	Jason BENNETT	5
defender	12	Doug WEST	1
midfield	13	David HODGSON*	—
striker	14	Liam McGUIRE*	—
striker	15	Michael WILLIAMS	—
defender	16	Shaun EDWARDS	—
midfield	17	Matthew LOWE	6
striker	18	Ben LANE	—
midfield	19	Leo LANGONE	2
g/keeper	20	Brad SWANCOTT	8
midfield	21	Eddy BOSNAR	—
striker	10	Recce TOLLENAERE*	4
defender	14	John FONDOULAKIS	—
midfield	13	Fouad UMLIL	3

*Shirt numbers changed later in season.

FAIR PLAY TABLE

	Y/C	R/C	TOT	
Brisbane Strikers	40	4	44	(12)
Adelaide City	46	0	46	(3)
Wollongong City	46	2	48	(6)
Carlton	46	3	49	(2)
Marconi Fairfield	50	2	52	(5)
Perth Glory	49	3	52	(8)
South Melbourne	52	2	54	(1)
Sydney Olympic	50	4	54	(9)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	**56**	**3**	**59**	**(13)**
Canberra Cosmos	55	4	59	(14)
Sydney United	57	3	60	(4)
Gippsland Falcons	57	4	61	(11)
Melbourne Knights	58	6	64	(7)
Adelaide Sharks	66	5	71	(10)

(Final league placing in brackets)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	26	13	9	4	46	41	48
Carlton	26	12	9	5	44	24	45
Adelaide City	26	13	4	9	45	30	43
Sydney United	26	11	10	5	37	26	43
Marconi Fairfield	26	12	7	7	33	25	43
Wollongong City	26	13	3	10	51	33	42
Melbourne Knights	26	11	6	9	37	35	39
Perth Glory	26	10	6	10	35	40	36
Sydney Olympic	26	10	4	12	32	38	34
Adelaide Sharks	26	10	4	12	32	38	34
Gippsland Falcons	26	8	7	11	28	36	31
Brisbane Strikers	26	6	5	15	23	40	23
N'CASTLE BREAKERS	**26**	**4**	**9**	**13**	**30**	**50**	**21**
Canberra Cosmos	26	3	8	15	29	56	17

Ericsson Cup Appearances 1997/98

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Ap	Su	Gl
Baker*	x	x	x	x	x							x	x	x	x												9		
Sprod	x	x	x	x	x	x2	x	x2	x	73		x	x3	77	47	x1	58		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	20	4	
Austin	x	x	x2	x	<x	x		75	80	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							17	2	
Pryce	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	25		5
McManus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x2	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x3	x	x	x1	25		1
Ironside	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x1	x			23		2
Ritchie	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x2	x	x	x	x			65	x2	x	x	x	x	21	1	1
Zane	x3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x2		x	x	x1	x		x			x	x	22		8
Halpin T	x2	x	x	x	x		x	x3	x	x1		72	x2														10	1	
Bennett	x	x	x	x	x>	x1				x	x1	x1	x1	69	x	55		56	x2	x	x	x		x	x	x	18	3	2
West	x1	x	x1	x1		85						79	87			45	x1	x	x	x	x1		81		70	45>	9	7	
Wilson	80		69	x	<80	63		60	x3	x	x	x	x	x1	x	x	x2	x2	82>		89	88	47			87>	11	10	1
Williams	66			66	x1																						1	2	
Lane	82				80>	x	x	x	61		79		77	75		x2	71	75									4	8	1
McGuire							x	x1	x1	83			60	x	90		79		32>		x2						5	5	1
Lowe			67			x	x	x	x	x2	x	x	x	x	x	x			63		75	75	x	x	x	x	15	4	1
Swancott*						x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	17		
Edwards								65	78	x	x	x2		x	x1	x	x	x1									8	2	
Tollenaere																	x3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x2	10		5
Langone																			x	x	x3	x1	x2	x	x1	x	8		1
Bosnar																					x	x	x	x	x	x	6		1
Fondoulakis																							85					1	
Umlil																							x	x		63	2		1

* = GOALKEEPER

Fixtures

		F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
1	ADELAIDE SHARKS	4-2	Zane 8,10,25p Bennett 79	5,022	
2	gippsland falcons	1-1	Zane 82		3,571
3	SOUTH MELBOURNE	0-2		5,095	
4	wollongong city	1-1	McManus 66		4,116
5	PERTH GLORY	2-3	Pryce 19, Lane 87	4,183	
6	sydney united	0-2			3,656
7	CARLTON	0-0		3,284	
8	BRISBANE STRIKERS	1-2	Zane 87	2,200	
9	melbourne knights	1-4	Pryce 65		3,140
10	canberra cosmos	1-1	McGuire 87		1,573
11	UTS OLYMPIC	2-3	Ritchie 18, Wilson 65	2,237	
12	marconi fairfield	1-2	Zane 45		3,286
13	MARCONI FAIRFIELD	0-0		3,892	
14	adelaide city	0-4			3,000
15	adelaide sharks	1-3	Lowe 47		2,410
16	GIPPSLAND FALCONS	1-5	Pryce 68p	2,888	
17	south melbourne	1-2	Zane 84		3,887
18	WOLLONGONG CITY	1-2	Ironside 35	2,389	
19	perth glory	4-3	Tollenaere 7,14,86, Pryce 24p		13,228
20	SYDNEY UNITED	3-1	Ironside 46, Zane 49, Bennett 85	2,119	
21	brisbane strikers	1-1	Tollenaere 79		3,129
22	ADELAIDE CITY	0-0		2,837	
23	carlton	0-3			1,548
24	MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	0-0		2,583	
25	CANBERRA COSMOS	2-1	Pryce 12p, Bosnar 56	3,344	
26	uts olympic	2-2	Tollenaere 12, Langone 59		2,032

Home Total	**Away Total**	**42,073**	**48,576**
	Agg. Total		**90,649**

Aussie Corner

VICTORIAN CHURCHES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Junior Result
Under 8 — Round 4

Ashburton Dynamos	5	Nth Blackburn Zebras	0
Ashburton All Stars	6	Lilydale	0
Berwickk	0	Ashburton Panthers	8
Nth Blackburn Eagles	3	Eltham	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Ashburton Dynamos	4	4	0	0	20	3	17	12
Nth Blackburn Eagles	4	3	1	0	18	2	16	10
Ashburton Panthers	4	3	0	1	28	4	24	9
Ashburton All Stars	4	2	1	1	12	4	8	7
Eltham	4	2	0	2	9	13	-4	6
Nth Blackburn Zebras	4	0	1	3	2	21	-19	1
Lilydale	4	0	1	3	1	20	-19	1
Berwick	4	0	0	4	1	24	-23	0

Round 5 — 30/5/98 — Under 8

Ashburton All Stars	v	Eltham
Ashburton Dynamos	v	Lilydale
Ashburton Panthers	v	Nth Blackburn Eagles
Nth Blackburn Zebras	v	Berwick

Under 10 — Round 4

Ashburton Predators	5	Eltham	0
Ashburton Rockets	0	Eastern United	2
Bye		Berwick	
Lilydale	1	Ashburton Strikers	2
Nth Blackburn Hawks	2	Ashburton United	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Ashburton Predators	4	4	0	0	35	0	35	12
Ashburton Strikers	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	9
Lilydale	4	1	1	2	2	3	-1	4
Ashburton United	3	1	1	1	4	7	-5	4
Eastern United	4	1	1	2	3	6	-3	4
Eltham	4	1	1	2	1	6	-5	4
Nth Blackburn Hawks	4	0	3	1	3	7	-4	3
Berwick	13	0	2	1	1	13	-12	2
Ashburton Rockets	3	0	1	2	1	17	-16	1

Round 5 — 30/5/98 — Under 10

Ashburton Strikers	v	Ashburton Predators
Ashburton United	v	Lilydale
Eastern United	v	Berwick
Eltham	v	Ashburton Rockets
Nth Blackburn Hawks		bye

Under 12 — Round 4

Berwick	7	Ashburton Terminators	1
Bye		Nth Blackburn Panthers	
Lilydale	1	Eastern United	6
Nth Blackburn Leopards	0	Eltham	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Berwick	4	4	0	0	18	1	17	12
Eastern United	4	3	0	1	11	2	9	9
Eltham	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Nth Blackburn Leopards	4	1	0	3	4	8	-4	3
Ashburton Terminators	3	1	0	2	4	11	-7	3
Lilydale	3	1	0	2	6	16	-10	3
Nth Blackburn Panthers	3	0	0	3	4	12	-8	0

Round 5 — 30/5//98 — Under 12

Ashburton Terminators	v	Lilydale
Eltham	v	Berwick
Nth Blackburn Leopards	v	Bye
Nth Blackburn Panther	v	Eastern United

Under 14 — Round 4

Berwick	7	Nth Blackburn Tigers	0
Eltham	3	Nth Blackburn Jaguars	3
Nth Blackburn Cheetahs	0	Lilydale	5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Lilydale	4	4	0	0	10	2	8	12
Berwick	4	2	1	1	12	4	8	7
Eltham	4	2	1	1	9	8	1	7
Nth Blackburn Jaguars	4	1	2	1	8	8	0	5
Nth Blackburn Cheetahs	4	0	2	2	3	10	-7	2
Nth Blackburn Tigers	4	0	0	4	2	12	-10	0

Round 5 — 30/5/98— Under 14

Lilydale	v	Eltham
Nth Blackburn Jaguars	v	Berwick
Nth Blackburn Tigers	v	Nth Blackburn Cheetahs

Under 16 — Round 4

Berwick United	2	Eltham	0
Bye		Nth Blackburn Raiders	
Lilydale	3	Berwick Terminators	2
Nth Blackburn Cougars	1	Mt. Evelyn	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Berwick United	4	4	0	0	12	1	11	12
Lilydale	4	2	0	2	8	5	3	6
Eltham	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Nth Blackburn Cougars	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
Berwick Terminators	4	1	1	2	6	10	-4	4
Mt. Evelyn	3	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3
Nth Blackburn Raiders	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0

Round 5 — 30/5/98 — Under 16

Berwick Terminators	v	Nth BlackBurn Raiders
Eltham	v	Lilydale
Mt. Evelyn	v	Berwick United
Nth Blackburn Cougars	v	Bye

DIVISION ONE — ROUND 6

Berwick Blues	4	Morrison	5
Box Hill	1	Eastern Utd One	3
Nth Blackburrn One	1	Lilydale One	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Eastern Uted One	6	5	1	0	14	3	11	16
Morrison	6	4	0	2	14	12	2	12
Lilydale One	6	3	1	2	15	10	5	10
Berwick Blue	6	2	1	3	11	12	-1	7
Nth Blackburn One	6	1	1	4	7	16	-9	4
Box Hill	6	1	0	5	6	14	-8	3

Round 7 — 13/6/98 — Division One

Berwick Blues	v	Nth Blackburn One
Lilydale One	v	Eastern United One
Morrison	v	Box Hill

DIVISION TWO — ROUND 6

Eltham	0	Eastern Utd Two	1
Mt. Evelyn	8	McKillop	2
Nth Blackburns Two	1	Canterbury 1	
Bye		Lilydale Two	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Nth Blackburn Two	6	4	2	0	21	12	9	14
Canterbury	5	3	1	1	16	6	10	10
Eastern Utd Two	5	3	1	1	1	8	3	10
Mt. Evelyn	5	2	0	3	20	13	7	6
Lilydale Two	5	2	0	3	9	19	-10	6
Eltham	5	1	0	4	5	13	-8	3
McKillop	5	1	0	3	7	18	-11	3

Round 7 — 13/6/98 — Division 2

Canterbury	v	Mt. Evelyn
Eastern Uted Two	v	Lilydale Two
McKillop	v	Eltham
Bye	v	Nth Blackburn Two

Queensland News ...

By Glenn Davis

Queensland broke its drought in the Muldoon Cup with a convincing 2-0 demolition over the strong New Zealand provincial side Auckland at Perry Park headquarters in Brisbane on Saturday night.

Queensland had to fight hard for the full 90 minutes against a injury riddled Auckland who lost several key players following a tough a 3-all draw against Toowoomba the previous Wednesday night.

The Muldoon Cup has been played only four times since its inception five years ago with Auckland dominating winning on each occasion before suffering their first loss in the series this year.

Auckland, despite losing skipper Michael Ridenton on the eve of the trans-Tasman clash with a medial ligament injury, proved close to impenetrable for the first 20 minutes before the Maroons exerted their supremacy.

The visitor frustrated the Queensland attack on numerous occasions with their successful tactics of stacking their defence until the deadlock was broken in the 24th minute.

Queensland midfielder Peter Grierson, one of the finds of the local XXXX league, stamped his mark on the game when he outjumped the Kiwi defence to drive home a powerful header off a corner midfielder Des Hughes.

Auckland left New Zealand's shores with a good mix of youth and experience but with only 14 players after several pulled out of the touring party with work commitments.

To make matters worse injuries on top of Ridenton's loss meant Auckland was a patched up outfit with a bare 13 players lining up for the grudge match against Queensland.

Such was their lack of firepower, Queensland's biggest threat came from their own defence who put goalkeeper Danny Duke under extreme pressure on the odd occasion.

Queensland increased their lead to 2-0 five minutes from the break when former national league striker Clayton Koch drove home from inside the box after some brilliant individual work from Hughes.

Hughes beat three defenders along the side of the area before swerving past a fourth to set up Koch with a delicately timed cross.

Koch almost made it 3-0 for the Maroons but a long range shot was denied by a brilliant diving save by Auckland keeper Ross Nicholson.

Auckland had two great chances in the match to crack the Queensland defence.

The first came from a mistake from Queensland defender Damian Harris who attempted a pass across his own goalface which was intercepted by Auckland's Robbie Clark.

Clark noticed Duke was stranded well out of his goal but his attempt from well outside the box to chip into an empty net sailed just over the crossbar.

Auckland's next best opportunity fell in the 66th minute when midfielder Paul Stephens set up striker Mick Hyde whose glancing header narrowly beat Duke's outstretched hand and trickled past the far upright.

For Queensland veteran Steve Jackson shone out in defence along with Grierson and workhouse Chris Slater up front while the best for Auckland was Clark and Hyde.

Meanwhile with no XXXX league fixtures this weekend, the Queensland Soccer Federation's new Queensland Cup knockout competition took centre stage.

The Queensland Cup for the first time this year is conducted along similar lines to England's FA Cup with clubs in all divisions involved in the knockout.

This weekend saw the XXXX league clubs join the competition for the second round which was to be played over five nights this week.

While most XXXX league clubs drew lower divisions sides, the game of the round was between two XXXX sides, Ipswich Knights and Gold Coast at Bundamba on Sunday.

Round 2 QLD Cup

Albany Creek	2	Michelton	0
Capalaba	5	Goodna Districts	1
Bundaberg Waves	7	Olympic United	1
Mt Gravatt	3	North Star	0
Rocklea United	6	Clairvaux	1
Uni of Qld	7	Redcliffe City	1
Ipswich Knights	2	Gold Coast City	1
Inala City	3	Souths Utd	2
Pine Rivers Utd	10	Woodridge	0
Brisbane Lions	5	Brothers Utd	0
Wynnum Dist	3	Newmarket	0
Annerley	5	Acacia Ridge	4
Grange Thistle	5	Bethania Rams	0

MULDOON CUP

Queensland	2	Auckland	0

GOAL SCORERS:
Peter Grierson 24 Clayton Koch 40

South Australia

PREMIER LEAGUE - RD 7

Croydon	2	Olympians	1
M.Kierno 2		M.Barber	
White City Warriors	1	West Torrens Birkalla	1
J.Arhondidis		C.McNichol	
Cumberland Utd	2	Campbelltown City	6
M.Higham		C.Talladiria 2	
S.Maxwell		A.Perre	
		P.Beltrome	
		R.Caperna	
		S.Monteroseo	
Elizabeth City	0	Port Adelaide Lions	2
		D.Sordillo	
		C.Groom	
Adelaide Blue Eagles	1	Raiders	1
J.Berlingeri		Morrison	
Adelaide Blue Eagles	1	Raiders	0
SA Ins SPort	1	Campbelltown City	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Campbelltown	7	5	1	1	16	6	10	16
West Torrens	7	5	1	1	18	12	6	16
Blue Eagles	7	4	1	2	12	5	7	13
Croydon	7	4	1	2	13	9	4	13
Cumberland	7	3	1	3	9	14	-5	10
Eliz City	7	2	3	2	8	7	1	9
Olympians	7	3	0	4	7	16	-9	9
Port Ad Lions	7	2	1	4	8	11	-3	7
White City	7	0	3	4	4	9	-5	3
Raiders	7	0	2	5	6	12	-6	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Campbelltown	8	5	2	1	16	6	10	17
Port Ad Lions	8	4	3	1	13	9	4	15
West Torrens	8	4	2	2	16	8	8	14
Croydon	8	4	2	2	16	9	7	14
SA Ins Sport	7	4	0	3	16	9	7	12
Olympian	8	4	0	4	12	11	1	12
Eliz City	8	3	3	2	12	16	-4	12
White city	8	2	3	3	7	10	-3	9
Blue Eagles	7	2	0	5	5	11	-6	6
Cumberland	7	1	1	5	8	17	-9	4
Raiders	7	1	0	6	3	18	-15	3

Under-23

Croydon	2	Olympians	0
White City Warriors	1	West Torrens Birkalla	1
Cumberland Utd	0	Campbelltown City	3
Elizabeth City	2	Port Adelaide Lions	2

Under-19

Croydon	7	Olympians	1
White City Warriors	2	West Torrens Birkalla	0
Cumberland Utd	0	Campbelltown City	3
Elizabeth City	0	Port Adelaide Lions	3
Adelaide Blue Eagles	0	Raiders	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Croydon	7	6	0	1	22	7	15	18
Campbelltown	7	5	1	1	20	7	13	16
White City	7	5	0	2	17	5	12	15
Raiders	7	5	0	2	11	9	2	15
West Torrens	7	4	1	2	13	7	6	13
Port Ad Lions	7	3	0	4	11	5	6	9
Blue Eagles	7	2	1	4	18	14	4	7
Cumberland	7	2	1	4	6	14	-8	7
Olympians	7	1	0	6	6	32	-26	3
Eliz City	7	0	0	7	6	30	-24	0

UK WEEK

Compiled by Micky Brock

FA CHARGE MAY HIT BATTY

David Batty, Newcastle's England midfielder, is facing a six-game ban at the beginning of next season. He is likely to miss the opening five games after being sent-off three times in the past season and it emerged that the 29-year-old has also been charged with misconduct for allegedly pushing referee David Elleray after being shown the red card in Newcastle's match against Blackburn on May 10.

If the misconduct charge is upheld, Batty is likely to receive an additional one-match ban — the same suspension imposed on players such as West Ham's Steve Lomas and Samusi Abou.

Batty, a former Leeds and Blackburn player who is expected to play a major role for England in the World Cup, is disputing his dismissal against Rovers and has asked for a personal hearing in which he hopes that video evidence will prove that he did not punch Garry Flitcroft.

Until he joined Newcastle in February 1996, Batty had never been sent off. Last season, though, he was also dismissed against Aston Villa and Derby County and ended up with the worst disciplinary record in the Premiership.

In the previous season he was shown the first red card of his career when he was sent off at Chelsea.

If Batty does fall foul of the FA's disciplinary machine, then it will be one of the longest bans imposed in recent seasons.

STAUNTON'S $10M OFFER

John Gregory is close to persuading Steve Staunton to remain at Aston Villa after offering him a four-year deal worth $10million — over $45,000 per week — which would make him Villa's highest-paid player.

The new contract would see Staunton overtake team-mate Stan Collymore in the table of high earners at Villa Park, and striker Dwight Yorke is set to be offered a similar deal.

Collymore's former boss Alan Smith has warned the striker he risks wrecking his career if he falls foul of Gregory.

Smith, in charge of Collymore at Crystal Palace, said: "He could be a bit sulky. If that's still the case then it won't go down well in the dressing room."

PARMA TARGET DI MATTEO

Parma are preparing a $14million bid to tempt Chelsea into selling their Italy midfielder Roberto Di Matteo.

The Serie A club recently quoted Chelsea $20m for their own international midfielder Dino Baggio and have promptly returned the compliment by asking after Di Matteo's availability.

Despite Di Matteo's status as one of Chelsea's most popular and successful imports, the sum is more than $6m higher than the fee paid to Lazio for his services two years ago.

It is because of this that Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli may give the idea more consideration than normal, but it is felt that Parma will need to tempt him a little more in order to tilt the odds in their favour.

OSTENSTAD A ROVER?

Blackburn emerged as favourites to sign Egil Ostenstad, the $10million-rated Norway striker who is also interesting Leeds.

The 26-year-old is negotiating new terms at Southampton but Saints manager Dave Jones is thought to be prepared to sell for the right offer.

Jones is keen to take fresh talent to Southampton and is hopeful Newcastle defender Darren Peacock will sign this week.

Jones said: "The deal is not yet cut and dried but I am optimistic that Darren will join us."

Southampton signed young Fiorentina pair Simeon Pelanti and Alessandro Atzeni on a six-month loan with a view to a permanent deal.

Blackburn sealed the $2m capture of 17-year-old winger Jim Corbett from Gillingham.

ITALY AT THE BRIDGE

Chelsea player coach Gianluca Vialli is ready to rip apart his double Cup-winning side and draft in foreign reinforcements worth $21 million.

The men lined-up are Crystal Palace midfielder Attilio Lombardo, Lazio striker Pierluigi Casiraghi and Milan star Marcel Desailly, of France.

Lombardo is poised to join his old friend Vialli when Mark Goldberg's takeover at Palace is completed. That long-running saga is on the brink of being finalised and Lombardo's likely move, first reported by Standard Sport, could be the prelude to another influx of foreign stars at Stamford Bridge.

Casiraghi, the $10m-rated striker, has been told by Lazio to find himself another club but the 29-year-old will not sign until he knows whether he is in coach Cesare Maldini's Italian World Cup squad.

Desailly, also a target for Liverpool, would also cost about $10m and has been a long-time target for Vialli, who sees him as the man to beef up Chelsea's midfield.

Vialli: Flushed with success and seeking an even more Continental approach to maintain Chelsea's status.

With Brian Laudrup due to join Chelsea from Rangers next season, there will have to be departures.

Mark Hughes, who has a year left on his contract, is wanted by Middlesbrough and could be the first big-name to leave Stamford Bridge. The striker would relish the chance to link up with former Manchester United team-mate Bryan Robson.

Vialli wants to tear up some areas of the team he inherited from Ruud Gullit, despite winning the European Cup Winners' Cup and Coca-Cola Cup.

He feels that unless he strengthens the side with world-class players, he will not have a squad capable of pushing champions Arsenal for the title.

Lombardo, 32, has been at Palace for 10 months and had an unsuccessful stint as player-manager as Palace tried in vain to avoid relegation.

Goldberg's takeover could go through by the end of the week. Present chairman Ron Noades - linked with a move for Brentford — is being kept in close touch with developments despite being on a short break.

Meanwhile, Chelsea will face Real Madrid on 28 August in the Super Cup Final. Madrid's victory over Juventus denied Vialli the chance to play his former side in the final.

Chelsea must wait to discover whether Dan Petrescu and Dennis Wise will be eligible for the match. Petrescu was sent off in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup and Wise received a second yellow card.

ROYLE WAR OF WORDS

Joe Royle has jetted out of Manchester away from a war of words with the club's former Georgian international Georgi Kinkladze.

Kinkladze, who is joining his new club Ajax, accused the City boss of leaving him out of the team during the club's Division One relegation fight.

The Georgian was reported as saying he cried when he was not chosen for the final game of the season at Stoke although he came on as substitute after City had flown him back by private jet from international duty in Tunisia the night before. Kinkladze also claimed he would have stayed with City if they had avoided relegation.

As Royle flew out of Manchester Airport he was dismissive of Kinkladze's outburst.

"Kinkladze is apparently now saying he would have stayed with us if we had escaped. That's very surprising when he demanded a transfer last November," Royle said.

The City boss also pointed out that Kinkladze's advisers had also been linked with trying to find the player a Premiership club in this country.

"I don't dispute Kinkladze's talent. But in some games there was no end product."

Royle brought Kinkladze back into the team as the club headed for relegation in March at Port Vale.

Kinkladze was virtually unseen as City crashed 2-1 and Royle promptly dropped the Georgian international for the next game.

At that time Royle said: "When Kinkladze is fully right in his approach then he will be considered like anyone else."

HIBS FANS PAY MORE

Hibernian season-ticket holders will pay more for less next season — after themselves promoting the retention of Premier Division prices to watch First Division football.

The Easter Road club's board, which co-opted businessmen Stephen Dunn and Malcolm McPherson, has rubber-stamped asking fans to pay the same money as last season for the campaign which kicks off in August.

The plan was revealed some three weeks ago and letters confirming the price freeze - which makes Hibs season-tickets roughly $200 more than next season's opponents - are being sent to 4700 holders.

And the deal could be extended to all home areas of the ground if the response from fans is good.

New chairman Tom O'Malley backed the suggestion after it was put to him by a fan and then had it welcomed by supporters groups who agreed on the proviso that the extra money will go to Alex McLeish for new players.

"We're writing to season-ticket holders with the retention of last season's prices, and have been delighted with the response to an idea which originally came from the supporters themselves,' said O'Malley.

"We've even had letters from fans saying this is what they want to do to ensure the club's finances are not drained more than is necessary by relegation."

Ironically, O'Malley was speaking on the day two directors were revealed as due to join the board on June 11 — even though they don't have significant cash to inject.

"That's not the objective of bringing in Stephen Dunn and Malcolm McPherson. Their appointments are about lowering the age profile of the board and injecting passion, commitment and energy.'

Dunn, 38, is the Head of Human Resources at Scottish Power and McPherson, 43, is a senior partner with law firm Henderson, Boyd and Jackson. Hibs promise more boardroom changes later this summer.

HIGNETT DONS NEW GARB

Dario Gradi used to keep his Crewe Alexandra academy of would-be superstars ticking over by selling off one or two lesser talents for the price of a new club mini-bus.

Fortunately for Craig Hignett, Gradi decided against applying the principle in his case when struggling Vauxhall Conference outfit Stafford Rangers wanted the player.

Hignett, who agreed to join Aberdeen from Middlesbrough, was spared dropping into non-League football and now, instead of being sacrificed for a Sherpa, will be invited to lead Pittodrie out of their wilderness years.

Carrying passengers, of course, has been afflicting Aberdeen teams for several years now but Hignett has been identified by Alex Miller as the star asset around which a new era can be built.

Guestimates vary on his new pay terms with club insiders insisting reports of $16,000 per week are an exaggeration. It may be nearer $12,000 per week but why quibble.

How many thousand a week? Aberdeen? Is this not the city whose residents, in the west of Scotland, carry the image of being so thrifty as to switch off the gas/electricity when turning the bacon??

Stewart Milne has already set about changing all that with the wage structure at Pittodrie now a clear third in Scotland behind an Old Firm bank-rolled each by 40,000 season-ticket holders and all the attendant commercial spin-offs.

So why, exactly, was Hignett made an offer his accountant couldn't refuse despite the prospect of swapping Teeside for Grampian and moving a few hundred miles from two young children? Miller clearly believes the 28-year-old Scouser, released by Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool when a youngster, can help transform his under-achieving squad and prove as big a success as his last signing from those parts — Derek Whyte. Many in Middlesbrough agree with Miller with a few thousand having signed a petition urging Bryan Robson to do all he can to keep the player at Riverside. Earlier reports of 40,000 signatures, evidently, are an exaggeration. Simon Bolton, of the Middlesbrough Supporters Association, was the first name on the 'Hignett Must Stay' petition, and can think of only one reason why the player should move to Aberdeen. "No disrespect to them but people here can't really see past Rangers and Celtic in Scotland and are wondering why Craig is going to Aberdeen," said Bolton. "Everton were supposed to be keen which didn't surprise us given he is from Merseyside and his dad is a big fan and the other option, which we would preferred, was him staying here. 'Then Aberdeen came in and suddenly it seems to be all about money. I can't really blame him given that he might be thinking this is one of his last big moves in his career but we'd like to see Robson doing more to keep him."

Hignett has been a 'Boro 'Man of the People' since signing for Lennie Lawrence from Crewe back in 1992.

He has survived the revolution involving the likes of Juninho, Emerson and Ravanelli through to Paul Merson and now Paul Gascoigne yet has remained a valued first team squad member, if not by Robson then certainly by the fans.

"Craig has scored a lot of goals for us and probably made double figures every season he has been here,' added Bolton. 'He's neither a winger nor a striker but can play 'in the hole' in midfield as they say nowadays. People said when Juninho came he'd never get a game but it didn't work out that way.

"When we came up in 1995 to the Premiership he actually took a pay cut to convince Robson he should get a new contract. He said he'd prove himself a Premiership player and he did just that.

"He scored the very first goal at the Riverside in a victory over Chelsea and has scored some very important ones over the years. In the run to the Coca-Cola Cup final this season he scored in injury-time against Sunderland to make it 2-0 — any 'Boro player who scores against Sunderland is very popular — and an injury-time winner at Reading."

Gascoigne pinched his place on the bench for the Wembley final with Chelsea, gifting Hignett his runners-up medal and the England star has also, apparently, talked up Scottish football when the transfer was mooted.

Hignett began his career at Anfield but a debilitating bout of glandular fever ensured he never made the breakthrough with Dalglish allowing him to depart for Crewe.

Even at Gresty Road he struggled initially to make an impact and went on loan to Stafford before Gradi blocked a sale and finally created a role for him at the club which helped David Platt, Geoff Thomas and Rob Jones become England caps.

Gradi later took to championing his former player's own international credentials, saying: "If Robert Lee (Newcastle) can play for England then so can Craig Hignett."

Aberdeen will settle for him restoring their status as Scottish football's third force en route.

NEGRI GOING HOME

Enigmatic does not even begin to accurately describe Marco Negri. It's a mark of the mystery behind the man that of all the tales told of him during his brief though eventful time in Scotland, only a handful are based in fact.

Reports claimed that the Italian striker had quit Rangers based on the premise that he had resigned the lease on his Glasgow flat.

It was a version of events which David Murray was quick to refute, pointing out that the player still has three years of his contract to run and that he was free to go on holiday now that the season had ended.

Both of those scenarios have a ring of truth but the real reason why Negri will never play again for Rangers is Negri himself. Despite his sensational goalscoring feats this season, Negri has failed to find favour or friendship with any of his team-mates at Ibrox.

It's neither a situation which is alien too him or one which causes him to lose any sleep as he has encountered it at every club he has played for.

There came a breaking point for Negri however when criticism of his attitude and application surfaced openly in the dressing room.

After suffering an eye injury while playing squash with Sergi Porrini, he was out of the team at exactly the same time as Celtic took the lead in the championship.

When he returned, his touch was a little out and his frustration grew with the lack of understanding he was shown by colleagues and fans alike.

Arguments ensued in the wake of disappointing results and Negri became an easy target for carping because the team were losing goals and he seemed to refuse to do anything more than he had to up front.

It came to a head when he told Porrini in a fit of pique that he was a terrible player who had been lucky to ride the coat tails of big clubs all of his career. Lorenzo Amoruso took Porrini's side and both rounded on Negri along with Rino Gattuso leaving him without an ally at Ibrox.

In Italy, Gazzetta Dello Sport reported Negri as saying that: "I will never go back to Scotland again, even when I'm dead."

The truth is, that even if he were to return alive, there would no-one at Rangers glad to see him.

Around the Globe

ALBANIA

Tomorri Berat	1	Shqiponja	0
Flamurtari Vlore	2	Partizani Tirana	1
Dinamo Tirana	7	Laci	1
Apolonia Fier	1	Lushnja	0
Bylis Ballsh	2	Besa Kavaje	1
SK Tirana	1	Sopoti Librazhd	0
Skenderbeu Korce	3	Vllaznia Shkoder	2
Shkumbini Peqin	3	Teuta Durres	1
Albpetrol Patos	1	Elbasani	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vllaznia	33	22	5	6	41	23	71
SK Tirana	33	19	8	6	54	18	65
Partizani	33	19	4	10	59	26	61
Teuta	33	17	2	14	38	37	53
Apolonia	33	15	7	11	38	30	52
Shkumbini	33	16	3	14	50	44	51
Elbasani	33	15	4	14	47	31	49
Tomorri	33	15	2	16	35	43	47
Bylis	33	13	6	14	40	36	45
Laci	33	14	3	16	43	48	45
Skenderbeu	33	13	6	14	39	49	45
Lushnja	33	13	5	15	53	28	44
Dinamo	33	12	8	13	41	35	44
Flamurtari	33	12	7	14	37	40	43
Besa	33	12	5	16	43	46	41
Shqiponja	33	11	4	18	32	54	37
Sopoti	33	10	5	18	34	58	35
Albpetrol	33	5	4	24	23	91	19

DENMARK

Aab Aalborg	1	Vejle	0
AGF Aarhus	0	Lyngby	1
FC Copenhagen	1	Brondby	4
Herfoelge	0	AB Copenhagen	3
OB Odense	5	Ikast	0
Silkeborg	3	Aarhus Fremad	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	31	23	3	5	80	33	72
Silkeborg	31	16	11	4	53	30	59
FC Copenhagen	31	17	7	7	60	42	58
Vejle	31	15	4	12	49	49	49
AB Copenhagen	31	13	8	10	58	46	47
Lyngby	31	13	6	12	50	55	45
Aab Aalborg	31	11	7	13	50	48	40
AGF Aarhus	31	10	10	11	49	47	40
Herfoelge	31	9	6	16	44	67	33
.Aarhus	31	8	6	17	47	67	30
Ikast	31	6	5	20	44	82	23
OB Odense	31	5	7	19	37	55	22

Note: Brondby are champions for the third successive season.

HUNGARY

Banyasz Siofok	0	Haladas	1
BVSC Budapest	4	Stadler Akaszto	1
Tiszakecske	1	Vac	0
Zalaegerszeg	6	Kispest-Honved	1
Gyor Eto	3	Videoton	2
Ujpest	4	Bekescsaba	1
Diosgyor	0	Ferencvaros	2
MTK Budapest	1	Debrecen	1
Gazszer Agard	2	Vasas Budapest	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest	32	21	8	3	59	23	71
Ferencvaros	32	20	6	6	60	37	66
Vasas	32	18	6	8	60	36	60
Gyor Eto	32	16	9	7	44	30	57
MTK	32	15	7	10	51	34	52
Gazszer	32	12	12	8	53	41	48
Vac	32	14	6	12	42	44	48
Zalaegerszeg	32	14	5	13	56	41	47
BVSC	32	12	8	12	46	40	44
Debrecen	32	12	8	12	43	47	44
Diosgyor	32	11	7	14	41	39	40
Banyasz	32	11	7	14	35	39	40
Haladas	32	9	8	15	36	44	35
Kispest	32	10	5	17	39	54	35
Videoton	32	7	9	16	41	53	30
Bekescsaba	32	7	9	16	27	55	30
Tiszakecske	32	7	8	17	34	73	29
Stadler	32	3	10	19	25	62	19

PORTUGAL

League champions Porto crowned a triumphant season by doing the double on Sunday, beating northern neighbours Braga 3-1 in the final of the Portuguese Cup.

All the goals came from Brazilians as Porto, whose league title was their fourth in succession, won the cup for the ninth time. It was the third time that they had won both trophies in the same season but the first for 10 years.

Clear favourites before the game, Porto got off to a dream start when central defender Aloisio Alves headed them into the lead with only 16 minutes on the clock.

With Braga, who last won the Cup in 1966, clearly feeling the pressure of the occasion, Porto went further ahead within eight minutes through Mario Jardel.

Braga defender Jose Azevedo mistimed a header to present the lanky striker with a clear shot at goal. His first attempt crashed back off the upright but he made no mistake with the second.

Porto appeared to be cruising to victory, dominating the midfield and preventing Braga from mounting any real threat.

But the mood, and the game, changed dramatically from the start of the second half. Suddenly it was Porto who were struggling as Braga pulled back a goal through one of their Brazilians, Silvio, after just three minutes.

Croat winger Karoglan Mladen sent in a curling cross from the right which the Brazilian rose to head home strongly.

Braga piled on the pressure and Porto central defender Joao Manuel Pinto was sent off for a second bookable offence as some wild tackles on both sides led to a flurry of yellow cards.

However, Porto's experience began to tell as they slowly broke down the momentum that Braga had gained.

But it took a spectacular save from Rui Correia almost on the stroke of time to prevent Braga from equalising. The goalkeeper leapt to his left to punch away a fierce header from midfielder Sergio Abreu.

With the game already into injury time, Yugoslav Ljubimko Drulovic broke away down the right and crossed to an unmarked Artur Oliveira, who controlled the ball with his back to goal and scored with a spectacular "bicycle" kick.

"We just don't know how to lose. These players only know how to win," said coach Antonio Oliveira, who is still to announce whether he will be staying with the club next season.

RUSSIA

Dynamo Moscow	0	Zenit St Petersburg	0
Alania Vladikavkaz	1	Shinnik Yaroslavl	2
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	3	Chernomorets	1
Lokomotiv Moscow	1	Rostselmash Rostov	1
Krylya Sovietov	2	Torpedo Moscow	0
Baltika Kaliningrad	1	CSKA Moscow	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	9	4	4	1	14	7	16
Alania	9	4	3	2	11	6	15
Zhemchuzhina	9	4	3	2	11	9	15
Rotor	8	3	5	0	14	8	14
Baltika	8	3	4	1	8	6	13
Lokomotiv	9	3	4	2	11	8	13
Rostselmash	9	3	4	2	14	9	13
Spartak	7	3	2	2	8	5	11
Krylya	9	3	2	4	9	11	11
CSKA	9	2	4	3	11	10	10
Chernomorets	9	1	7	1	9	10	10
Shinnik	9	2	3	4	7	14	9
Uralan	8	2	2	4	7	10	8
Dynamo	9	0	8	1	4	6	8
Torpedo	9	1	4	4	6	9	7
Tyumen	8	1	1	6	3	17	4

Note: Where points level, the number of wins, then results between tied teams count before goal difference

SLOVAKIA

Slovan Bratislava	2	Kosice	0
JAS Bardejov	1	Spartak Trnava	2
OD Trencin	2	Petrimex Prievidza	1
Artmedia Petrzalka	2	Tauris Rimavska	1
Dukla Banska Bystrica	0	HFC Humenne	1
DAC Dunajska Streda	0	Tatran Presov	0
Lokomotiva Kosice	1	Inter Bratislava	2
MSK Zilina	0	SCP Ruzomberok	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kosice	29	20	5	4	68	23	65
Spartak Trnava	29	19	6	4	57	31	63
Inter Bratislava	29	17	6	6	51	25	57
OD Trencin	29	16	5	8	46	28	53
Slovan	29	12	8	9	39	34	44
Tauris	29	12	7	10	37	32	43
MSK Zilina	29	10	9	10	22	25	39
HFC Humenne	29	12	2	15	36	53	38
Artmedia	29	10	6	13	25	28	36
SCP	29	9	9	11	34	46	36
Petrimex	29	9	8	12	35	41	35
Tatran Presov	29	8	9	12	26	38	33
Dukla Banska	29	7	9	13	31	43	30
JAS Bardejov	29	7	6	16	27	38	27
Lokomotiva	29	6	5	18	28	53	23
DAC Dunajska	29	5	6	18	23	47	21

SWITZERLAND

Grasshoppers	4	Servette	2
Lausanne Sports	4	Aarau	1
St Gallen	2	Lucerne	0
Sion	3	FC Zurich	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshoppers champions	14	11	1	2	39	16	57
Servette	14	5	6	3	18	15	41
Lausanne	14	5	4	5	17	17	40
Zurich	14	6	5	3	27	17	38
Sion	14	6	4	4	23	21	37
St Gallen	14	4	5	5	12	17	32
Aarau	14	1	4	9	13	27	25
Lucerne	14	1	5	8	10	29	23

Points totals include half-points from the preliminary round.

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Weird & Wonderful

By Stuart Jones

1968-69

Don Revie took his Leeds side to the top of the First Division and kept them there. They finished six points clear of the field scoring 66 goals and more incredibly conceding just 26! They were undefeated at home, drawing just three games and conceding only nine goals at home. Liverpool finished runners-up with Everton and Arsenal third and fourth.

At the bottom QPR won only four games, scored only 39 goals, did not win away from home all season, and collected just 18 points.

Leicester City also went down with them after they finished on 30 points, a point behind Coventry City. On May 17 the Foxes lost 3-2 at Old Trafford. For Coventry this result caused much relief as it was one of several Leicester had in hand over them.

Brian Clough's Derby County had a very successful season in Division Two having lost only one game at home. The side finished top on 63 points, seven clear of also promoted Crystal Palace.

Charlton finished third but that was a further six points behind promotion. At the bottom Fulham and Bury were relegated.

The best race of all was in Division Three with Watford and Swindon finishing equal on 64 points. This meant they were both promoted but with the sides equal on wins draws and losses Watford were crowned champions on goal average. There was not much in that either with Watford scoring three more goals and conceding one less. Amazingly both teams conceded only seven goals at home all term. Watford's 1-0 away win at Swindon on March 29 would end up being very crucial indeed. At the bottom Crewe and Oldham were relegated. Down with them went newly renamed Hartlepool (previously Hartlepools United) and Northampton Town. A 1-1 draw on April 29 with Oldham was not enough for Northampton as Gillingham were a point further clear of that mark and had a game in hand (a match they lost).

Meanwhile Doncaster Rovers won Division Four and were promoted with Halifax, Rochdale and Bradford City. The other Bradford team enjoyed less success once more as Bradford Park Avenue finished bottom of the league for the second successive season.

The League Cup threw up another stunning result. The Final was between Arsenal (fourth in Division One) and Swindon (second in Division Three).

Arsenal were raging favourites for a Wembley success but goals to Smart and Rogers (2) gave Swindon Town the League Cup with the final score reading Swindon 3 Arsenal 1.

In the FA Cup semi-finals Manchester City had defeated Everton 1-0, whilst Leicester City had knocked out West Bromwich Albion by the same scoreline.

Leicester would have to put the disappointment of relegation behind them, further, they were yet to win at Wembley in their whole history. Joe Mercer's Manchester City were on a wave of success and this was not going to be stopped in the final. Once more only one goal separated the teams and that goal was scored by Young after Mike Summerbee took the ball down the right to the by-line and crossed it back in to his Man City colleague. It had been 13-years since the lads from Maine Road had held the FA Cup trophy.

Manchester United made the semi-finals of the Champions Cup of Europe but were tumbled out once more by Milan at that stage. Newcastle United did win the Fairs Cup after defeating Ujpesti Dozsa of Hungary in the final (3-0 at home, and 3-2 away to win 6-2 on aggregate). Their road to the final, and triumph, had been past Feyenoord, Sporting CP, Real Zaragoza, Vitoria FC Setubal and Glasgow Rangers.

Cambridge United won their first championship on the last day of the season in the Southern League, defeating Kettering 3-0 whilst Hillingdon were held to a 2-2 draw. A cash crisis, and horror last ten games, saw Wimbledon drop to third. Relegated from the Premier League were Cheltenham, Bedford, Rugby and Guildford. Brentwood Town were champions of Division One with Bath, Gloucester, and Crawley all gaining promotion as well. Sadly Hereford had lost two of their players, newly signed from Swansea. Brian Purcell and Roy Evans were killed in a car crash on their way to a match in January.

Southern League Cup champions were also Cambridge, the first 'Double' winners since 1955. They defeated Cheltenham, a side who also suffered relegation.

For the fourth season in a row Celtic were crowned champions of Scotland, finishing five points clear of Rangers. At the bottom Falkirk and Arbroath both finished with less than twenty points and were relegated. Motherwell won Division Two, ending eleven points clear of Ayr United who were also promoted. Stenhousemuir finished bottom of the Scottish League once more.

The League Cup was won by Celtic. In the final they thrashed Hibernian of Edinburgh 6-2, the third eight goal final Celtic had been involved in. The semi-finals of the Scottish FA Cup went to Rangers (6-1 over Aberdeen) and Celtic (4-1 over Morton).

This Final was not a close affair and Celtic won the treble once more after thumping Rangers 4-0 at Hampden Park.

Around Europe the Champions were:

Austria: FK Austria (Cup - SK Rapid Wien)
Belgium: Standard CL (Cup - Lierse SK)
Bulgaria: CSKA Sofia (Cup double)
France: AS Saint-Etienne (Cup - Olympique Marseilles)
East Germany: Vorwarts Berlin (Cup - 1.FC Magdeburg)
West Germany: Bayern Munchen (Cup double)
Holland: Feyenoord (Cup double)
Italy: AC Fiorentina (Cup - AS Roma)
Poland: Legia Warszawa (Cup - Gornik Zabrze)
Portugal: Benfica (Cup double)
Romania: UT Arad (Cup - Steaua Bucuresti)
Russia: Spartak Moskva (Cup - SKA Karpati Lvov)
Spain: Real Madrid CF (Cup - Club Atletico De Bilbao)
Sweden: IFK Goteborg (Cup - IFK Norrkoping)
Switzerland: FC Basel (Cup - FC St Gallen)
Euro Champions Cup: AC Milan
Euro Cup Winners Cup: Slovan Bratislava
Euro Fairs Cup: Newcastle United

ENGLAND

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds U	42	18	3	0	41	9	9	10	2	25	17	67
Liverpool	42	16	4	1	36	10	9	7	5	27	14	61
Everton	42	14	5	2	43	10	7	10	4	34	28	57
Arsenal	42	12	6	3	31	12	10	6	5	25	15	56
Chelsea	42	11	7	3	40	24	9	3	9	33	29	50
Tottenham H	42	10	8	3	39	22	4	9	8	22	29	45
Southampton	42	13	5	3	41	21	3	8	10	16	27	45
West Ham U	42	10	8	3	47	22	3	10	8	19	28	44
Newcastle U	42	12	7	2	40	20	3	7	11	21	35	44
WBA	42	11	7	3	43	26	5	4	12	21	41	43
Manchester U	42	13	5	3	38	18	2	6	12	19	35	42
Ipswich T	42	10	4	7	32	26	5	7	8	27	34	41
Manchester C	42	13	6	2	49	20	2	4	15	15	35	40
Burnley	42	11	6	4	36	25	4	3	14	19	57	39
Sheffield W	42	7	9	5	27	26	3	7	11	14	28	38
Wolves	42	7	10	4	26	22	3	5	13	15	36	35
Sunderland	42	10	5	5	28	18	1	6	14	15	49	34
Nottingham F	42	6	6	9	17	22	4	7	10	28	35	33
Stoke C	42	9	7	5	24	24	0	8	13	16	39	33
Coventry C	42	8	6	7	32	22	2	5	14	14	42	31
Leicester C	42	8	8	5	27	24	1	4	16	12	44	30
QPR	42	4	7	10	20	33	0	3	18	19	62	18

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby Co	42	16	4	1	43	16	10	7	4	22	16	63
Crystal P	42	14	4	3	45	24	8	8	5	25	23	56
Charlton A	42	11	8	2	39	21	7	6	8	22	31	50
M'brough	42	13	7	1	36	13	6	4	11	22	36	49
Cardiff C	42	13	3	5	38	19	7	4	10	29	35	47
Huddersfield T	42	13	6	2	27	14	4	6	11	16	32	46
Birmingham C	42	13	3	5	52	24	5	5	11	21	35	44
Blackpool	42	9	8	4	33	20	5	7	9	18	21	43
Sheffield U	42	14	4	3	41	15	2	7	12	120	35	43
Millwall	42	10	5	6	33	23	7	4	10	25	26	43
Hull C	42	10	7	4	38	20	3	9	9	21	32	42
Carlisle U	42	10	5	6	25	17	6	5	10	21	32	42
Norwich C	42	7	6	8	24	25	8	4	9	29	31	40
Preston NE	42	8	8	5	23	19	4	7	10	15	25	39
Portsmouth	42	11	5	5	39	22	1	9	11	19	36	38
Bristol C	42	9	9	3	30	15	2	7	12	16	38	38
Bolton W	42	8	7	6	28	26	4	7	10	26	41	38
Aston Villa	42	10	8	3	22	11	2	6	13	15	37	38
Blackburn R	42	9	5	6	30	24	4	5	12	22	39	37
Oxford U	42	8	4	8	21	23	4	4	13	13	32	33
Bury	42	8	4	9	35	33	3	4	14	16	47	30
Fulham	42	6	7	8	20	28	1	4	16	20	53	25

DIVISION 3

Watford 64, Swindon T 64, Luton T 61, Bournemouth 51, Plymouth A 49, Torquay U 48, Tranmere R 48, Southport 47, Stockport Co 46, Barnsley 46, Rotherham U 45, Brighton & HA 45, Walsall 44, Reading 43, Mansfield T 43, Bristol R 43, Shrewsbury T 43, Orient 42, Barrow 42, Gillingham 41, Northampton T 40, Hartlepool 39, Crewe A 35, Oldham A 35.

DIVISION 4

Doncaster R 49, Halifax T 57, Rochdale 56, Bradford C 56, Darlington 52, Colchester U 52, Southend U 61, Lincoln C 51, Wrexham 50, Swansea T 49, Brentford 48, Workington 47, Port Vale 46, Chester 45, Aldershot 45, Scunthorpe U 44, Exeter C 43, Peterboro U 42, Notts Co, Chesterfield 41, York C 39, Newport Co 38, Grimsby T 33.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Cambridge United 59, Hillingdon Borough 58, Wimbledon 54, King's Lynn 49, Worcester City 49, Romford 48, Weymouth 47, Yeovil Town 45, Kettering Town 44, Dover 43, Nuneaton Borough 41, Barnet 40, Chelmsford City 40, Hereford United 39, Telford United 38, Poole Town 38, Burton Albion 37, Margate 35, Cheltenham Town 35, Bedford Town 34, Rugby Town 26, Guildford City 25.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Brentwood Town 64, Bath City 62, Gloucester City 59, Crawley Town 55, Corby Town 50, Dartford 48, Ramsgate Athletic 47, Salisbury 46, Cambridge City 46, Banbury United 44, Trowbridge Town 44, Folkestone Town 43, Canterbury City 41, Ashford Town 40, Bexley United 39, Hastings United 39, Wisbech Town 35, Dunstable Town 34, Merthyr Tydfil 27, Barry Town 26, Gravesend & Northfleet 25, Tonbridge 10.

SCOTLAND

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	34	23	6	3	39	32	54
Rangers	34	21	7	6	81	32	49
Dunfermline A	34	19	7	6	63	45	45
Kilmarnock	34	15	14	5	50	32	44
Dundee U	34	17	9	8	61	49	43
St Johnstone	34	16	5	13	66	59	37
Airdrie	34	13	11	10	46	44	37
Hearts	34	14	8	12	53	54	36
Dundee	34	10	12	12	47	48	32
Morton	34	12	8	14	58	68	32
St Mirren	34	11	10	13	40	54	32
Hibernian	34	12	7	15	60	59	31
Clyde	34	9	13	12	35	50	31
Partick T	34	9	10	15	39	53	28
Aberdeen	34	9	8	16	50	59	26
Raith R	34	8	5	21	45	67	21
Falkirk	34	5	8	21	33	69	18
Arbroath	34	5	6	23	41	81	16

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Motherwell	36	30	4	2	112	23	64
Ayr U	36	23	7	6	82	31	53
East Fife	36	21	6	9	82	45	48
Stirling A	36	21	6	9	67	40	48
Queen of the South	36	20	7	9	75	41	47
Forfar A	36	18	7	11	71	56	43
Albion R	36	19	5	12	60	56	43
Stranraer	36	17	7	12	57	45	41
E Stirling	36	17	5	14	70	62	39
Montrose	36	15	4	17	59	71	34
Queen's Park	36	13	7	16	50	59	33
Cowdenbeath	36	12	5	19	54	67	29
Clydebank	36	6	15	15	52	67	27
Dumbarton	36	11	5	20	46	69	27
Hamilton A	36	8	8	20	37	72	24
Berwick R	36	7	9	20	42	70	23
Brechin C	36	8	6	22	40	78	22
Alloa	36	7	7	22	45	79	21
Stenhousemuir	36	6	6	24	55	125	18

EUROPEAN CUP REPORT

Mijatovic Destroys Juventus

We should have known that the good guys always wear white — and so it proved in a classic European Cup Final.

Real Madrid upset the odds — and most of Italy — thanks to an instant of penalty-box brilliance, the moment it took to separate two supremely talented teams playing to their limits.

The Real good guy, when the shoot-out finally arrived, was Predrag Mijatovic, the Yugoslav who regards it as an insult if anyone dares offer him a chance to take aim in the box.

Mijatovic

After an hour and seven minutes of tension, while Fernando Hierro played sheriff in a man-of-the match performance, Roberto Carlos cracked a hopeful left-foot shot at goal. Mark Iuliano attempted to control the ball but it slipped an inch too far. Mijatovic whipped possession off him, danced around his lunge, shimmied past the advancing Angelo Peruzzi and gleefully struck a left-foot shot high into the net.

Real were reputedly on $500,000 per-man to win a trophy they have dreamed of since their six triumphs between 1956 and 1966 — in that instant Mijatovic earned all of them their cash.

In a gutsy reply which typified this marvellous game, Alessandro Del Piero wriggled clear barely a minute later and crossed for the normally lethal Pippo Inzaghi but destiny avoided him and the ball missed the net.

When Edgar Davids jinked past both Hierro and Manuel Sanchis but chipped tamely into Bodo Illgner's grateful hands and Zinedine Zidane bent a fantastic free kick half a yard wide, Juventus had lost their second European Cup Final in two years.

But their contribution to the momentous night was a testimony to their indomitable will.

So many of these big occasions are made ugly, or at least a little unattractive, by tired limbs, caution and jangling nerves. But these two aristocrats were so eager to show their class that it took until the 35th minute before there was the slightest respite.

Whatever flick, trick or kick Juventus produced, Real were jealously keen to emulate. For each little instep pass which Zinedine Zidane manufactured out of the experimental laboratory which is his brain, Raul had a nutmeg on Moreno Torricelli to equal it and Roberto Carlos an equally delightful overhead pass to escape Inzaghi.

Within the pulsating opening minutes, Del Piero had burgled the ball from the toes of Clarence Seedorf in a move that culminated with Didier Deschamps crashing in a shot for Illgner to save low at his right hand.

Real's answer was immediate. Mijatovic raked in a probing right-foot shot with nine minutes gone but the two incidents at either goal were mere bookends for the defensive brilliance which Hierro had provided in the intervening five minutes.

Twice he intercepted right on the edge of the penalty box when Del Piero was bursting through on goal. The Spain defender also hauled his muscular frame directly into the flightpath of a vicious Zidane shot and in so doing marked himself out as the man Juventus would have to break down if the Cup was to wear black and white ribbons.

His anticipation was a joy to watch but Juventus still showed why they have reached four consecutive UEFA Finals. Zidane left Fernando Redondo flailing at thin air 40 yards out and played a defence-splitting pass to Angelo di Livio wide on the right. The Italy midfielder let fly and the ball careered wildly off Roberto Carlos into the side netting of Madrid's goal.

Hierro was cautioned for a foul on Del Piero but almost opened the scoring soon after. Redondo set the ball up for him following a free kick and the defender's fierce rising drive was tipped away from under the bar by the aerial lunge of Peruzzi.

But if Hierro was wearing the crown on this regal night then, unfortunately, Torricelli was playing jester.

After that early moment when Raul nipped the ball between his bandy legs, the long-haired former carpenter might have known that the chips were down.

But his dismay must have tripled when Mijatovic totally skinned him down the right and crossed for Raul, who utterly mistimed his clear chance from five yards out and missed the golden moment.

Seven minutes later, the underdogs, who hadn't won this trophy for 32 years, showed that their fangs were blunt after Roberto Carlos dropped a corner kick right on the toes of Fernando Morientes, who fluffed the chance.

Twice before the break Roberto Carlos increased the feeling that this was a special occasion with left-footed free kicks, only the first of which fizzed and skidded close to the Italian goal.

Davids was booked for a foul on Mijatovic before escaping the red card right on half time for a clear obstruction of Seedorf's progress. His Holland team-mate was also cautioned late on for a bit of retaliation on Davids.

Neither Del Piero's free kick nor some wonderful chest control and a left-foot volley from Inzaghi could break the deadlock as the game ticked thrillingly on until that magical moment of Mijatovic which set the evening up for its majestic climax.

Champions Of Europe - Again

Real Madrid ended a 32-year wait to be crowned kings of the Continent after beating Juventus 1-0 in Amsterdam.

But Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic's first goal in this season's competition, which gave Real the Cup for the first time since 1966 (a record seventh time), still may not be enough to keep coach Jupp Heynckes in his job.

"I think this must be the first time that a coach has won the European Cup and then had to face a load of questions about his future," said the German. He added: "Anyway, these questions should be for the president of Real Madrid."

Victory evoked memories of the great Real side that lifted the trophy in each of the first five years of the competition from 1956 to 1960.

The 67th-minute strike also cancelled out a frustrating season in Spain, where Real finished fourth in the Liga, well behind their arch-rivals and champions Barcelona.

But defeat spelled bitter disappointment for Juventus, who also lost last season's final 3-1 to Borussia Dortmund after winning the Cup in 1996.

Real Madrid's success lay in their ability to stifle Juve's feared strikeforce, Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi, who have scored nearly 60 goals between them this season.

And they took the best chance which came their way from a well-organised Juventus defence, which just days ago had guided the Turin club to their 25th Italian league title.

Heynckes said that strict discipline and order was the key to his side's long-awaited success.

"In the Champions League this season, we have only lost one match and that was at Rosenborg in very bad conditions," he said.

Real Fans Rampage

Scuffles between fans and riot police in the Spanish capital soured the celebrations following Real Madrid's 1-0 European Cup victory against Juventus in Amsterdam.

Police used rubber bullets to disperse the huge crowds of jubilant supporters who had descended on the downtown square of Cibeles to celebrate the return of the Cup to Madrid after 32 years.

More than two hours after the match finished, mounted police and riot vehicles occupied the square that had previously been bursting with the cry of 'Champions'.

Several police and supporters were hurt, although no serious injuries were reported, a police spokeswoman said. But the return of charter flights carrying about 15,000 Real Madrid supporters who had travelled to see the match could prolong the problems.

Official crowd estimates were not available, although national television said about 300,000 people had gathered in and around Cibeles. It was Predrag Mijatovic's second-half strike that gave Real Madrid the victory over Juventus in the Amsterdam Arena and sparked off the celebrations.

The Yugoslav international striker scored in the 66th-minute as the Spanish giants chalked up a record seventh win in European football's most important club competition.

Meanwhile, Juventus have been made 4-1 favourites for next season's competition by bookmakers William Hill.

5-1 *8-1* *10-1*

Inter Milan are 5-1, Arsenal and Real Madrid are 8-1 and Man Utd are 10-1.

Echoes Of The Past

European football paid homage to its past as the greatest trophy went back to its original winners, Real Madrid, after a brilliant final played by two teams of regal style.

It took one instant of lightning skill and ruthless self-belief from Predrag Mijatovic to give Real a Cup they have fantasised about for 32 years after lifting it on six occasions across its first 10 years of existence.

Yet despite his twinkle-toed dance across the box and the dribble around the goalkeeper which brought a stadium to its feet, this was a night when the actual game of football showed itself to be a beautiful thing.

Juventus' second successive trip at the final hurdle, after losing to Borussia Dortmund last year, was principally to do with the fact that two well-matched sides were separated by a massive performance from Fernando Hierro.

But this enthralling, entrancing night bucked the trend of final occasions becoming spoiled by guitar-string nerves.

From the early seconds, when Raul cheekily pushed the ball through the legs of Moreno Torricelli, it was evident that this would be no let-down.

Chances were made and scorned, players ran with the ball and the magicians were not afraid to demonstrate their trickery.

Real were not playing under the same kind of shoulder-crushing weight of expectation which Juventus themselves suffered before their victory in this cup two years ago.

After a domestic season when Real hauled up a flag the same colour as their white shirts to let Barcelona run away with the Spanish League, and a build-up to this final when common talk said that coach Jupp Heynckes was already effectively sacked, Madrid were oozing self-belief.

Perhaps in football, as in cowboy films, the good guy is the one wearing white. Only just, however, as Edgar Davids burst his lungs trying to outdo his Holland colleague and opposite number Clarence Seedorf.

Zinedine Zidane started the night imperiously but failed to get his normal bountiful supply from Didier Deschamps who was eventually substituted.

Angelo Di Livio caused havoc down the right before being substituted at half-time and seemed the only way past that rock in central defence, Hierro.

The Spain defender was the sergeant major of the Madrid parade ground — and how the troops marched to his command.

He took only eight minutes to pull off superb ball-winning tackles on Juventus' most important player — Alessandro Del Piero.

Hierro then hammered a free-kick which Angelo Peruzzi tipped away from under the bar, and the way he intercepted pass after pass from Zidane and Davids.

Before the final all the midfield soldiers — Deschamps, Davids, Christian Karembeu and Seedorf — had concluded that it would be the first to commit error, the first to tire, who would lose.

So it proved.

It was Moreno Torricelli who first proved to have saved a poor performance for an unforgiving night. Both Raul and Mijatovic humiliated him down the Juventus right, but when the Yugoslav left Torricelli lying on the turf young Raul inexplicably missed from five yards.

Torricelli's mistakes had the fortune to be outside the box. Undoubtedly Madrid would not let generosity pass nearer the goal and When Roberto Carlos made his only important attacking contribution all night the lights went out in Iuliano's brain.

Only a couple of weeks ago it was Iuliano whose body-check on Ronaldo denied fellow title-chasers Inter Milan a point from what should, certainly, have been a penalty.

Perhaps fate paid the Juventus defender back. How else will he explain the way his poor control presented a chance for the nerveless Mijatovic?

Alfredo Di Stefano himself could not have punished the 67th-minute chance more imperiously. With one touch Mijatovic took the ball past Iuliano's lunge and his beautifully balanced surge also brought him past the advancing Peruzzi.

His left foot sent the ball high into the Juventus net and you knew then that Juventus coach Marcello Lippi had been denied again.

Defensive fallibility crushed Juventus a year ago against Dortmund and, given Iuliano's mistake, the painful absence of Ciro Ferrara and Hierro's masterclass in penalty-box domination, it looks to remain their achilles heel.

Still, they had the chances to snatch something — even glory.

Davids burst past both Hierro and Manuel Sanchis only to lob into Bodo Illgner's arms and when Del Piero produced his one meaningful moment his cross was scorned in front of goal by Filippo Inzaghi.

Inzaghi had his team's classiest moment with a chest control and left-foot volley earlier but Illgner was in tune with his team's quest for glory.

Despite the glory there was still rancour as Heynckes said:

"My players just had more willpower to take the title. And they had more inspiration."

There is a whole, other world beyond Sky's Premier League and if this was only the hors-d'oeuvre 98 than those Finals will provide a feast which England and Scotland may find difficult to digest.

Here was foreign policy which really could match the hype which surrounds our domestic football.

So exacting are the demands of the game in Europe now that Jupp Heynckes, the German who has coached Madrid back to the pinnacle of their former glory, will be relieved of his command forthwith. The championship of Europe may be that Real's Holy Grail Spanish League is their bread and butter and that has been lost to the hated Barcelona.

To Marcello Lippi, twice the loser now in three of these finals in succession, goes the privilege of bringing Juventus back next year to face the challenge of Arsenal and Manchester United among others.

The Champions League next season also has revived standards to live up to from now on.

They have been set, appropriately by the Real Madrid for the Millennium. And perhaps the apparition was not so ghostly after all. Stefanio and several other giants from the past were among those watching in admiration as the legend grew again.

Redondo

World Cup History

Part 2

By Micky Brock

BRAZIL 1950

More and more countries were embracing football, so much so that the 1950 World Cup had plenty of teams making it through to the finals series.

However, when looking at the various pool matches, it becomes obvious that things were totally out of balance in South America and rumour abounded that the entire set-up was made all the more ludicrous by the setting.

In saying this, many believe to this day that the tournament produced one of the greatest ever climaxes and brought about one of the greatest shocks in the history of the sport.

In addition to the backdrop of tension, drama and hilarity, the trophy was now officially known as the 'Jules Rimet' Trophy, in honour of one half of the duo who started the ball rolling for what has become the largest single sporting occasion the world has ever seen, and after he had kept the solid gold statuette under his bed throughout the long years of war and beyond.

The other half of the double-act, Henri Delaunay, had resigned from the World Cup committee after it was decided to play the matches in a 'pool' setting as opposed to the traditional knock-out basis by which the competition had been conceived and intended. Delaunay was correct to think it unfair for several reasons, not the least being as we shall discover.

The teams that were thought of as being favourites for this tournament included: Italy, Sweden, England and the host nation, Brazil, but as things turned out, it wasn't to be for the European sides and, as for Brazil, perhaps they flattered to deceive.

GROUP ONE

Brazil	4	Mexico	0 (h/t 1-0)
Yugoslavia	3	Switzerland	0 (h/t 3-0)
Yugoslavia	4	Mexico	1 (h/t 2-0)
Brazil	2	Switzerland	2 (h/t 2-1)
Brazil	2	Yugoslavia	0 (h/t 1-0)
Switzerland	2	Mexico	1 (h/t 2-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	4	6	3
Mexico	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

POOL TWO

Spain	3	USA	1 (h/t 0-1)
England	2	Chile	0 (h/t 1-0)
USA	1	England	0 (h/t 1-0)
Spain	2	Chile	0 (h/t 2-0)
Spain	1	England	0 (h/t 0-0)
Chile	5	USA	2 (h/t 2-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
England	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Chile	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
USA	3	1	0	2	5	6	2

POOL THREE

Sweden	3	Italy	2 (h/t 2-1)
Sweden	2	Paraguay	2 (h/t 2-1)
Italy	2	Paraguay	0 (h/t 1-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

POOL FOUR

Uruguay	8	Bolivia	0 (h/t 4-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	1	1	0	0	8	0	2
Bolivia	1	0	0	1	0	8	0

FINAL POOL MATCHES

(Sao Paulo)

Uruguay 2 Spain 2 (h/t 1-2)
Ghiggia — Basora 2
Varela

Uruguay: Masopoli, M.Gonzales, Tejera, W.Gonzales, Varela (cpt), Andrade, Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Vidal.

Spain: Ramallets, Alonzo, Gonzalvo II, Gonzalvo III, Parra, Puchades, Basora, Igoa, Zarra, Molowny, Gainza.

(Rio)

Brazil 7 Sweden 1 (h/t 2-0)
Ademir 4 — Andersson 1p
Chico 2
Maneca

Brazil: Barbosa, Augusto (cpt), Juvenal, Bauer, Danilo, Bigode, Maneca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.

Sweden: Svensson, Samuelsson, E.Nilsson, Andersson, K.Nordahl, Gard, Sundqvist, Palmer, Jeppson, Skoglund, S.Nilsson.

(Sao Paulo)

Uruguay 3 Sweden 2 (h/t 1-2)
Ghiggia — Palmer
Miguez 2 — Sundqvist

Uruguay: Paz, M.Gonzales, Tejera, Gambetta, Varela (cpt), Andrade, Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiffiano, Vidal.

Sweden: Svensson, Samuelsson, E.Nilsson, Andersson, K.Nordahl, Gard, Sundqvist, Palmer, Jeppson, Skoglund, S.Nilsson.

(Rio)

Brazil 6 Spain 1 (h/t 3-0)
Jair 2 — Igoa
Chico 2
Zizinho
Parra og

Brazil: Barbosa, Augusto (cpt), Juvenal, Bauer, Danilo, Bigode, Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.

Spain: Eizaguirre, Alonzo, Gonzalvo II, Gonzalvo III, Parra, Puchades, Basora, Igoa, Zarra, Panizo, Gainza.

(Sao Paulo)

Sweden 3 Spain 1 (h/t 2-0)
Johansson Zarra
Mellberg
Palmer

Sweden: Svensson, Samuelsson, E.Nilsson, Andersson, Johansson, Gard, Sundqvist, Mellberg, Rydell, Palmer, Johnsson.

Spain: Eizaguirre, Arseni, Alonzo, Silva, Parra, Puchades, Basora, Fernandez, Zarra, Panizo, Juncosa.

(Rio)

Uruguay 2 Brazil 1 (h/t 0-0)
Schiffiano — Friaca
Ghiggia

Uruguay: Maspoli, M.Gonzales, Tejera, Gambetta, Varela (cpt), Andrade, Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Moran.

Brazil: Barbosa, Augusto (cpt), Juvenal, Bauer, Danilo, Bigode, Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	7	5	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	14	4	4
Sweden	3	1	0	2	6	11	2
Spain	3	0	1	2	4	11	1

This was the first tournament when countries started to take the sport seriously and the word 'professionalism' began creeping into the game.

Flavio Costa was in control of the Brazilian team in 1950 and not for him the injustices and poor performances of 1938, he had a job to do as manager and he meant business, especially as it was rumoured that at the time he was earning in the region of $2,000 per month, a princely sum. To put this into perspective, some people in Australia today only just about earn that figure, some 48 years later!

Costa had his players locked away for four months before the fist kick-off in the opening match, and it included the married men not seeing their wives and loved ones. In addition, each player was expected to be in bed by no later than 10.00pm of an evening and had to drink a vitamin drink before turning in.

Admittedly the house, just outside Rio, had the luxury of a swimming pool and balcony, but what this procedure in fact achieved was to usher in a new dawn for football, rightly or wrongly, and was to be seen as the forerunner of the modern system of managing a team which, until this point, was almost a case of a kick-around and a few exercises a couple of times per week.

Brazil were taking football to a newer, more scientific level. One from which it was never to look back from.

And so it was, four World Cup tournaments, two European and two South America wins, with only Uruguay (1930 & 1950) and Italy (1934 & 1938) ever having won the trophy.

The great shock of the competition we mentioned earlier — USA 1 England 0!

The betting was now on for who would be the first of these two nations to win the tournament for a third time and claim the Jules Rimet Trophy as there own for all time. Would either win the next showdown in Switzerland 1954, or would a new world force in football emerge from the pack?

SWITZERLAND 1954

As we have seen, the eventual winners of the previous competition came as quite a shock to the football system. Nobody expected Uruguay to get up, which made this particular contest even keener.

However, the 1954 tournament was about to throw the football world into a spin.

Never before had one team been fancied before the first kick-off, but Hungary, especially after their win in the 1952 Olympic Games final in Helsinki. They managed to unite so many differing styles of play into one irresistible, cohesive unit. The 'Magical Magyars' had fused their traditional style with that of the continentals and to which was added supreme firepower up front to produce an irrepressible brand of soccer that dazzled the world.

It was probably coincidence that Poland dropped out leaving Hungary a free trip to the finals without having to play a qualifying match, but their group in the land of cuckoo clocks included Turkey and West Germany, re-admitted at last and still under the astute eye of Sepp Herberger.

Coming into force this time around was yet another elimination scheme, complex to say the least, and that dumbfounded many experts within the game, added to which, the choice of venue was somewhat frowned upon by the soccer fraternity and, in the long run, staging the World Cup in Switzerland proved too great a task.

The favourites to win were seen as: Hungary, Uruguay, Austria, Scotland, England, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Italy, France and West Germany, after years in the wilderness, being the dark horses.

GROUP ONE

Yugoslavia	1	France	0 (H/T 1-0)
Brazil	5	Mexico	0 (h/t 4-0)
France	3	Mexico	2 (h/t 1-0)
Brazil	1	Yugo	1 aet (h/t 0-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	6	1	3
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
France	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Mexico	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

GROUP TWO

Hungary	9	Korea	0 (h/t 4-0)
W Germany	4	Turkey	1 (1-1)
Hungary	8	Germany	3 (h/t 3-1)
Turkey	7	Korea	0 (H/T 4-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
W Germany	2	1	0	1	7	9	2
Turkey	2	1	0	1	8	4	2
Korea	2	0	0	2	0	16	0

Play-off:
West Germany 7 Turkey 2 (h/t 3-1)

GROUP THREE

Austria	1	Scotland	0 (h/t 1-0)
Uruguay	2	Czech	0 (h/t 0-0)
Austria	5	Czech	0 (h/t 4-0)
Uruguay	7	Scotland	0 (h/t 2-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
Austria	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Czech	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
Scotland	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

GROUP FOUR

England	4	Belgium	4 (h/t 2-1)
England	2	Switzerland	0 (h/t 1-0)
Switzerland	2	Italy	1 (h/t 1-1)
Italy	4	Belgium	1 (h/t 1-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	6	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	5	3	2
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	5	8	1

Play-off: Switzerland 4 Italy 1 (h/t 1-0)

QUARTER-FINALS

(Geneva)

W Germany 2 Yugoslavia 0 (h/t 1-0)
Horvat og
Rahn

West Germany: Turek, Laband, Kohlmeyer, Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, O.Walter, F.Walter (cpt), Schaefer.

Yugoslavia: Beara, Stankovic, Crnkovic, I.Cjaicowski, Horvat, Boskov, Milutinovic, Mitic (cpt), Vukas, Bobek, Zebec.

(Berne)

Hungary 4 Brazil 2 (h/t 2-1)
Hidegkuti 2 — D.Santos 1p
Lantos 1p — Julinho
Kocsis

Hungary: Grosics, Buzansky, Lantos, Bozsik (cpt), Lorant, Zakarias, M.Toth, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Czibor, J.Toth.

Brazil: Castilho, D.Santos, N.Santos, Brandaozinho, Pinheiro (cpt), Bauer, Julinho, Didi, Indio, Tozzi, Maurinho.

(Basel)

Uruguay 4 England 2 (h/t 2-1)
Borges — Lofthouse
Varela — Finney
Schiaffino
Ambrois

Uruguay: Maspoli, Santamaria, Martinez, Andrade, Varela (cpt), Cruz, Abbadie, Ambrois, Miguez, Schiaffino, Borges.

England: Merrick, Staniforth, Byrne, McGarry, Wright (cpt), Dickinson, Matthews, Broadis. Lofthouse, Wilshaw, Finney.

(Lausanne)

Austria 7 Switzerland 5 (h/t 2-4)
A.Koerner 2 — Ballaman 2
Ocwirk — Hugi 2
Wagner 3 — Hanappi og
Probst

Austria: Schmied, Hanappi, Barschandt, Ocwirk (cpt), Happel, Koller, R.Koerner, Wagner, Stojaspal, Probst, A.Koerner.

Switzerland: Parlier, Neury, Kerner, Eggimann, Bocquet (cpt), Casali, Antenen, Vonlathen, Hugi, Ballaman, Fatton.

SEMI-FINAL

(Basel)

W Germany 6 Austria 1 (h/t 1-0)
Schaefer — Probst
Morlock
F.Walter 2p
O.Walter 2

West Germany: Turek, Posipal, Kohlmeyer, Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, O.Walter, F.Walter (cpt), Schaefer.

Austria: Zeman, Hanappi, Schleger, Ocwirk (cpt), Happel, Koller, R.Koerner, Wagner, Stojaspal, Probst, A.Koerner.

(Lausanne)

Hungary 4 Uruguay2 aet (H/t 1-0)
Czibor — Hohberg 2
Hidegkuti
Kocsis 2

Hungary: Grosics, Buzansky, Lantos, Boszik (cpt), Lorant, Zakarias, Budai, Kocsis, Palotas, Hidegkuti, Czibor.

Uruguay: Maspoli, Santamaria, Martinez, Andrade (cpt), Carballo, Cruz, Souto, Ambrois, Schiaffino, Hohberg, Borges.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Austria 3 Uruguay 1 (h/t 1-1)
Stojaspal 1p — Hohberg
Cruz og
Ocwirk

Austria: Schmeid, Hanappi, Barschandt, Ocwirk (cpt), Kollmann, Koller, R.Koerner, Wagner, Dienst, Stojaspal, Probst.

Uruguay: Maspoli, Santamaria, Martinez, Andrade (cpt), Carballo, Cruz, Abbadie, Hohberg, Mendez, Schiaffino, Borges.

THE FINAL

(Berne)

Hungary, hot favourites at the start of the tournament, had shown the punters they were right to be given such status by going through undefeated and scoring 25 goals, an average of over six per game, including eight against their final opponents West Germany in their qualifying group.

The old saying of 'lightning never strikes twice' was about to come true again and for West Germany, now split because of politics surrounding the Berlin Wall after the second world war, it was to be their first tournament win, but not their last.

W Germany 3 Hungary 2 (h/t 2-2)
Morlock — Puskas
Rahn 2 — Czibor

West Germany: Turek, Posipal, Kohlmeyer, Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, O.Walter, F.Walter (cpt), Schaefer.

Hungary: Grosics, Buzansky, Lantos, Boszik (cpt), Lorant, Zakarias, Czibor Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, J.Toth.

The next tournament was set for Sweden in four years time, where another South American side was to shine and the world was to become enthralled by a gangly teenager whose name, in later life, came to represent everything that was good and pure within the sport. Even those who proclaimed loudly against football could tell you who this 17-year old boy was and what he played.

In essence, Sweden was to be the birthplace, in socer terms, of arguably the greatest player to ever lace-up a pair of boots. He was simply known as ... Pele.

SWEDEN 1958

As the competition continued to grow and prosper, more countries were involved in qualifying games in order to join the elite in the finals.

The possible champions would also change, such is the nature of football, dependent on which continent the matches were to be played, so far it had been a nation from whichever continent had hosted the finals that had won the tournament.

WORLD CUP
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WORLD CUP GROUP C

BY STUART JONES — CELEBRITY COMMENTS: MR BRANCO CULLINA

World Cup History Pt2 cont.

Swings and round-a-bouts, variations, styles, the previous showing and the results of the last four years matches would take into account who the pundits thought could go all the way, but the pattern was emerging and some 'old favourites' began the list, almost before anything else had been considered.

The most likely teams to lift the trophy this time around were seen as: Hungary, France, Argentina, Brazil, and West Germany, however, the World Cup was about to throw up its usual surprises and heartache.

GROUP ONE

W Germany	3	Argentina	1 (h/t 2-1)
Ireland	1	Czech	2 (h/t 1-0)
W Germany	2	Czech	2 (h/t 1-0)
Argentina	3	Ireland	1 (h/t 1-1)
W Germany	2	Ireland	2 (h/t 1-1)
Czech	6	Argentina	1 (h/t 3-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W Germany	3	1	2	0	7	5	4
Czech	3	1	1	1	8	4	3
Ireland	3	1	1	1	4	5	3
Argentina	3	1	0	2	5	10	2

GROUP TWO

France	7	Paraguay	3 (h/t 2-2)
Yugoslavia	1	Scotland	1 (h/t 1-1)
Yugoslavia	3	France	2 (h/t 1-1)
Paraguay	3	Scotland	2 (h/t 2-1)
France	2	Scotland	1 (h/t 2-0)
Yugoslavia	3	Paraguay	3 (h/t 2-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	1	11	7	4
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	7	6	4
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	9	12	3
Scotland	3	0	1	2	4	6	1

GROUP THREE

Sweden	3	Mexico	0 (h/t 1-0)
Hungary	1	Wales	1 (h/t 1-1)
Wales	1	Mexico	1 (h/t 1-1)
Sweden	2	Hungary	1 (h/t 1-0)
Sweden	0	Wales	0 (h/t 0-0)
Hungary	4	Mexico	0 (h/t 1-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Hungary	3	1	1	1	6	3	3
Wales	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Mexico	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

Play-off: Wales 2 Hungary 1 (h/t 0-1)

GROUP FOUR

England	2	Russia	2 (h/t 0-1)
Brazil	3	Austria	0 (h/t 1-0)
England	0	Brazil	0 (h/t 0-0)
Russia	2	Austria	0 (h/t 1-0)
Brazil	2	Russia	0 (h/t 1-0)
England	2	Austria	2 (h/t 0-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
England	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Russia	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Austria	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Play-off: Russia 1 England 0 (h/t 0-0)

QUARTER-FINALS

(Gothenburg)

Brazil 1 Wales 0 (h/t 0-0)
Pele

Brazil: Gilmar, De Sordi, N.Santos, Zito, Bellini, Orlando, Garrincha, Didi, Mazzola, Pele, Zagalo.

Wales: Kelsey, Williams, Hopkins, Sullivan, M.Charles, Bowen, Medwin, Hewitt, Webster, Allchurch, Jones.

(Mazzola was the nickname of 19-year old blonde centre-forward Jose Altafini who, it was stated, looked very similar to the real Mazzola, the captain of Italy, who had recently transferred to AC Milan for a substantial fee. Garrincha, roughly translated, meant 'little bird' and there is very little need to remind you of Pele's real name surely?)

(Norrkoping)

France 4 Ireland 0 (h/t 1-0)
Wisnieski
Fontaine 2
Piantoni

France: Abbes, Kaebel, Lerond, Penverne, Jonquet, Marcel, Wisnieski, Fontaine, Kopa, Piantoni, Vincent.

Ireland: Gregg, Keith, McMichael, Blanchflower, Cunningham, Cush, Bingham, Casey, Scott, McIlroy, McParland.

(Malmo)

West Germany1 Yugoslavia 0 (h/t 1-0)
Rahn

West Germany: Herkenrath, Stollenwerk, Juskowiak, Eckel, Erhardt, Szymaniak, Rahn, Walter, Seeler, Schmidt, Schaefer.

Yugoslavia: Krivocuka, Sijakovic, Crnkovic, Krstic, Zebec, Boskov, Petakovic, Veselinovic, Milutinovic, Ognjanovic, Rajkov.

(Stockholm)

Sweden 2 Russia 0 (h/t 0-0)
Hamrin
Simonsson

Sweden: Svensson, Bergmark, Axbom, Boerjesson, Gustavsson, Parling, Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.

Russia: Yachine, Kessarev, Kuznetsov, Voinov, Krijevski, Tsarev, A.Ivanov, V.Ivanov, Simonian, Salnikov, Ilyin.

SEMI-FINALS

(Gothenburg)

Brazil 5 France 2 (h/t 2-1)
Vava — Fontaine
Didi — Piantoni
Pele 3

Brazil: Gilmar, De Sordi, N.Santos, Zito, Bellini, Orlando, Garrincha, Didi, Vava, Pele, Zagalo.

France: Abbes, Kaelbel, Lerond, Penverne, Jonquet, Marcel, Wisnieski, Fontaine, Kopa, Piantoni, Vincent.

(Stockholm)

Sweden 3 W Germany 1 (h/t 1-1)
Skoglund — Schaefer
Gren
Hamrin

Sweden: Svensson, Bergmark, Axbom, Boerjesson, Gustavsson, Parling, Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.

West Germany: Herkenrath, Stollenwerk, Juskowiak, Eckel, Erhardt, Syzmaniak, Rahn, Walter, Seeler, Schaefer, Cieslarczyk.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

(Gothenburg)

France 6 West Germany 3 (3-1)
Fontaine 4 — Cieslarczyk
Kopa 1p — Rahn
Douis — Schaefer

France: Abbes, Kaelbel, Lerond, Penverne, Lafont, Marcel, Wisnieski, Douis, Kopa, Fontaine, Vincent.

West Germany: Kwiatowski, Stollenwerk, Erhardt, Schnellinger, Wewers, Syzmaniak, Rahn, Sturm, Kelbassa, Schaefer, Cieslarczyk.

Once again the host nation was in the Final and surely this was to be Sweden's finest hour.

History was on their side as no team had ever won the trophy outside of their own continent before and the Brazilian temperament was questionable when it came to facing the 'home side' in front of their own vociferous fans in Stockholm.

However, Brazil need not have worried as Sweden were forbidden to bring any cheerleaders into the stadium and the crowd remained extremely quiet for most of the game. Whether this was as a result of the ban or the scintillating display of football produced by Brazil is a matter of conjecture.

As the Final unfolded, it looked as if the status quo would continue as Sweden found the net after just four minutes through Liedholm.

Brazil, not to be outdone, equalised six minutes later through Vava after some great work from Garrincha on the right wing. He beat both Parling and Axbom for dead with a swerving ball around them and left them flat-footed in the race to collect the ball. His cross was met by Vava who made no mistake.

And it was again Vava who scored to give Brazil a 2-1 half-time advantage as once more the Swedish left flank was torn apart by skill, flair and pace. Shortly after followed by Pele hitting the post, a foretaste of what was to come.

Ten minutes after the break and Pele produced the first glimpse of his cheeky, impertinent style as collected the ball on his thigh in a heavily crowded penalty area, looped it over his head, spun and lashed the volley past Svensson. A legend was born.

Zagalo netted the fourth for Brazil and the Brazilian fans sent up a chant of 'Samba, Samba', but the Swedes' never-say-die attitude cut short the cheers when Agne Simonsson scored their second goal, from a suspiciously offside position.

Pele restored Brazil's superiority, and three goal lead, when he, as was to become a characteristic trademark of the man over the years, rose magnificently above the pack to head home a cross from Zagalo.

At their sixth attempt, the Jules Rimet Trophy was finally in their possession, and in a show of respect for their opponents, they ran like children around the pitch with their own flag firstly, and then the Swedish banner.

No-one could argue that the finest team in the tournament had won it and the additional bonus for Brazil, they won the hearts and minds of football followers everywhere which, to this very day, has not diminished.

(Stockholm)

Brazil 5 Sweden 2 (h/t 2-1)
Vava 2 — Liedholm
Pele 2 — Simonsson
Zagalo

Brazil: Gilmar, D.Santos, N.Santos, Zito, Bellini, Orlando, Garrincha, Didi, Vava, Pele, Zagalo.

Sweden: Svensson, Bergmark, Axbom, Boerjesson, Gustavsson, Parling, Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.

Denmark

Previous Finals:
1986 2nd Round

Host:
Never

Best:
2nd Rd (1986)

Qualifying path: Winner European Group One

Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
8	5	2	1	14	6	17

Slovenia 0 Denmark 2 - Denmark 2 Greece 1 - Croatia 1 Denmark 1 - Denmark 4 Slovenia 0 - Denmark 2 Bosnia 0 - Bosnia 3 Denmark 0 - Denmark 3 Croatia 1 - Greece 0 Denmark 0.

Top scorer in qualifying: Brian Laudrup 3

Coach: Bo Johansson
Colours: Red/White shirts, white shorts.

World Cup finals record:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
1	4	3	0	1	10	6

Euro 96: 1st Round

Odd point: Denmark's only major trophy was for a tournament they did not technically qualify for. When Yugoslavia were banned from Euro 92 Denmark, as runners-up in their group, came in to the tournament which they went on to win.

Denmark have never met any of their group in World Cup finals action before, although they and France both participated in Mexico 1986.

Denmark return to the big time six years after their finest hour in Europe. Michael Laudrup missed that tournament although he did play for them in Mexico in 1986, the only survivor. His experience, along with his brother and the likes of Peter Schmeichel should see the team progress to the next round.

Branko Culina says: "Because they have been there and won in Europe before they will have the inner belief to progress. Not good enough to win the World Cup though."

Betting: 34.00

Odd point: In Euro 96 France were the only team to defeat Germany, the side that would eventually go on to win the tournament.

France have never met any of their group in World Cup finals action before.

Everyone who talks about France mentions the pressure they are under as the hosts. As with England in 1966, despite the fact they have never won the World Cup, the mere fact they are on home soil, in many locals' eyes, should see them through. Injuries have already taken their toll on the French team. A second round clash against the likes of Spain or Bulgaria/Nigeria is probably of more concern than their group stage.

Branko Culina says: "Playing at home could go both ways, they have to progress at least to the semi final stage to make the World Cup a success."

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v Saudi Arabia (Lens)	June 13	1.00am live (Saturday)
v South Africa (Toulouse)	June 19	4.30am live (Friday)
v France (Lyon)	June 25	Delayed telecast (Thurs)

France

Previous Finals:
1930 1st Round
1934 1st Round
1938 2nd Round
1954 1st Round
1958 Semi Finalists (3rd)
1966 1st Round
1978 1st Round
1982 Semi Finalists (4th)
1986 Semi Finalists (3rd)
Host: 1938

Best: 1958, 1986 Third (semi finalists)

QUALIFIED AS HOSTS

Coach: Aime Jacquet

Colours: Blue shirts, white shorts.

World Cup Finals Record:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
9	34	16	4	14	71	56

Euro 96: Semi-Finalists.

Betting: 7.00

French winger Ibrahim Ba is certain to stand out at the World Cup finals, whatever happens to the host nation.

The Senegalese-born Frenchman with the dyed blond hair, modeled after hero Dennis Rodman, has been cutting a dash on the right wing with AC Milan all season.

Now the millionaire footballer is preparing for his first World Cup finals, within sight of the impoverished Paris streets where he grew up.

Ba, whose father was a Senegal international and played second-division club football in France, has had a long and rocky road to the top.

"Growing up in the 18th arrondissement means growing up somewhere with a bad reputation and where there are a lot of drugs," he said. "But that's where my friends are, and I don't care what people think.

"And I haven't forgotten my time in Senegal."

Ba spent his early years in Africa with his brother and grandmother, while his parents both worked in France.

"I remember when I was a boy, I used to dream of becoming a great footballer," he said. "I used to say, 'Grandma, I want to become the new Maradona.' And she said, 'Insciallah, Ibou.' May Allah watch over you."

Ba eventually moved to Paris, where he joined the youth team of Chantilly, followed by Paris FC.

He finally got his break with Le Havre. Ba started his first full season in

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v South Africa (Marseille)	June 13	4.30am live (Saturday)
v Saudi Arabia (Saint-Denis)	June 19	4.30am live (Friday)
v Denmark (Lyon)	June 25	Delayed telecast (Thurs)

WORLD CUP COMPETITION * Details on Page Two *

WORLD CUP GROUP C

1992 as a 19-year-old midfielder, and he stayed in the northern docks city for another three years before moving on to better things with Bordeaux in 1996.

Bordeaux, previously down in the relegation zone, won a UEFA Cup place, while Ba also made a scoring debut for France in a 2–0 win over Portugal.

AC Milan had seen enough and flipped open Silvio Berlusconi's chequebook. Six million dollars later, Ba made a memorable debut one summer evening in July 1997, scoring a goal and dazzling the crowd with his exciting runs down the flank as Milan beat Monza 3-2.

Ba was literally an overnight sensation. The bright, vibrant performance, which prompted Berlusconi to compare his new signing to "a Beaujolais nouveau," instantly went to the heads of the Milan fans.

However, AC Milan, like Beaujolais nouveau, was destined for a nasty hangover. It was another disappointing season in the Serie A, with Milan apparently surgically attached to the middle of the table.

Ba was one of the few bright spots, not for scoring goals but handing them to others on a plate.

There was no shortage of emotion off the field either for Milan's new recruit. He escaped unscathed after writing off his Mercedes in a car crash in November, and in February was called to account for some venomous comments about his team-mates' shortcomings after losing 2-1 to Lazio.

"What this side needs is a decent striker and a decent goalkeeper," he said. The following day, Ba admitted: "I was wrong to have said what I did. I shouldn't talk straight after a match."

That promise is bound to be difficult to keep at in France, especially when the extroverted midfielder appears at the Stade de France in Paris.

Things often go better for footballers before their home fans, however, and in Ba's case, he couldn't be much closer to home.

Lama back for France will have many Gauls dancing in the streets as, for a long while, it seemed as if flamboyant goalkeeper Bernard Lama would miss out on France's bid to win the 1998 World Cup on home soil.

Lama was suspended for six months last year after he tested positive for marijuana and his career took a nosedive.

His club, Paris St Germain, washed its hands of him and he spent several months in limbo, ignored by French coach Aime Jacquet, until English Premier League club West Ham gave him the chance to resurrect his career.

At first Lama was frustrated at West Ham, where he began as second choice to Canadian Craig Forrest, but he soon established himself as the No. 1 keeper at the club with a series of commanding performances.

After apparently falling behind the erratic Fabien Barthez, Lionel Charbonnier and even Lionel Letizi in the French pecking order, Lama was recalled to the French squad for a recent friendly against Russia.

Barthez still started the game, but Lama's recent performances, including starting in a friendly against Sweden, means he could be first-choice at the finals and be given the chance to add further to the 35 international caps he won before his slump.

Of Guyanese parentage, Lama was born in Saint Symphorien, outside Tours, in April 1963, but grew up in Guyana. He played for Lille, Metz, Brest and Lens before joining PSG, where he developed into a top notch goalkeeper. He has played 380 French First Division games and was French Player-of-the-Year in 1994.

His strength is making goalkeeping look easy. While he can be dramatic at times, he does all the basics well, and PSG this season suffered from failing to adequately replace him.

He was a key player when the club from the French capital won the 1994 League title and the 1996 European Cup Winners' Cup.

He made his national team debut in 1993, in a 3-0 win over Israel, and was an automatic choice until his drug-test results. He is currently being linked with a move back to the French capital.

Lama is a player who thrives in the limelight and he recently launched his own Internet site (www.bernardlama.com) to keep fans up to date with his activities and those of the French team in the lead-up to the World Cup finals.

"I like the thought that I can get my own ideas over to the fans, without them being interpreted by an intermediary," he said.

Saudi Arabia

Previous Finals: 1994 2nd Round

Host: Never

Best: 2nd round (1994)

Qualifying path: Winner Asian Group A

Preliminary stage:
Taiwan 0 Saudi Arabia 2 - Malaysia 0 Saudi Arabia 0 - Bangladesh 1 Saudi Arabia 4 - Saudi Arabia 3 Bangladesh 0 - Saudi Arabia 3 Malaysia 0 - Saudi Arabia 6 Taiwan 0.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
6	5	1	0	18	1	16

Asian Group A

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
8	4	2	2	8	6	14

Saudi Arabia 2 Kuwait 1 - Iran 1 Saudi Arabia 1 - China 1 Saudi Arabia 0 - Saudi Arabia 1 Qatar 0 - Kuwait 2 Saudi Arabia 1 - Saudi Arabia 1 Iran 0 - Saudi Arabia 1 China 1 - Qatar 0 Saudi Arabia 1

Top scorer in qualifying: Khalid al-Muwalid 7

Coach: Carlos Alberto Parreira

Colours: Green/White shirts, white shorts.

World Cup finals record:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
1	4	2	0	2	5	6

Asian Cup: Champions

Betting: 251.00

Odd point: After seven plus coaches since their last World Cup Carlos Alberto Parreira has taken up the reins. One doubts he will lift the World Cup as he did with Brazil last time around.

The only time that the Saudi's have qualified for the World Cup none of the other teams in this group did.

The Saudi's are less of a surprise packet this time around. All the money in the world does not mean that talent on the field in international football. They are champions of Asia and will fight hard but a repeat of 1994's success looks unlikely.

Branko Culina says: "A struggling side, this is a tough group for them."

Betting: 251.00

Schedule (Australian time)		SBS	
v Denmark (Lens)	June 13	1.00am live (Saturday)
v France (Saint-Denis)	June 19	4.30am live (Friday)
v South Africa (Bordeaux)	June 23	11.30pm live (Tuesday)

South Africa

Previous Finals: None

Host: Never

Best: N/A

Qualifying path: Winner African Group Three

Preliminary Stage:
Malawi 0 South Africa 1 - South Africa 3 Malawi 0. (4-0 on aggregate.)

African Group Three

Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
6	4	1	1	7	3	13

South Africa 1 Zaire 0 - Zambia 0 South Africa 0 - Congo 2 South Africa 0 - Zaire 1 South Africa 2 - South Africa 3 Zambia 0 - South Africa 1 Congo 0.

Top scorer in qualifying: Phil Masinga 4

Coach: Jean-Phillipe Troussier

Colours: Green/Gold/White shirts, green shorts.

World Cup finals record: N/A

African Nations: Finalists (Runners Up)

Odd point: The road to USA 1994 was the first time South Africa had even entered to qualify for the World Cup. Once qualified for France 1998 coach Clive Baker resigned his post.

South Africa have never played in the finals. Croatia, Jamaica, and Japan (all in Group H) are also debuting in France 98.

South Africa will look to upset France in their first game of the finals as it is then they will be able to maximise the surprise factor. Then they would have a chance of making it to the next round. They disappointed in the Confederation Cup and could not successfully defend their African nations title. Will it be the same sad story in France 1998? At least they have a coach who knows the territory as he is French and French managers have had a fair bit of success recently.

Schedule (Australian time)		SBS	
v France (Marseille)	June 13	4.30am live (Saturday)
v Denmark (Toulouse)	June 19	4.30am live (Friday)
v Saudi Arabia (Bordeaux)	June 25	Delayed telecast (Thurs)

Branko Culina says: "The darkhorse, impressed when we played them a couple of years back. Micky Peterson said they were up there with the best. If they get a couple of good early results then look out."

Betting: 201.00

South Africa began their countdown to the World Cup in France next month with a 1-1 draw against Zambia last Wednesday.

Mathews Kamwashi scored a ninth-minute goal for the visitors and Shaun Bartlett equalized after 57 minutes before a 30,000 crowd on a cold night at FNB Stadium. Goalkeeper Hans Vonk was at fault for the Zambian goal as he moved to cut off a low cross from Masauso Tembo, then retreated and Kamwashi drilled the ball over the line through three defenders.

South Africa was making its debut under French coach Philippe Troussier, who made six second-half substitutions as he seeks a winning combination for France.

"I was very happy with the performance. We displayed a positive approach against worthy opponents and I am even more optimistic about the World Cup now," he said.

South Africa, who wore their World Cup strip for the first time, flew to Argentina for a much tougher warm-up match against the 1978 and 1986 World Cup winners in Buenos Aires yesterday.

Former national team star Jomo Sono has rejected an offer of a job as an assistant with South Africa at the World Cup finals in France next month.

Sono, who guided Bafana Bafana (The Boys) to second place behind Egypt at the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso last February as caretaker coach, was asked to fill an unspecified technical committee role.

The 43-year-old businessman, Premier Soccer League club owner and coach declined to assist after attending a South African Football Association (SAFA) meeting near Johannesburg.

Sono said World Cup preparations began several months ago under French coach Philippe Troussier and he believed it was now too late for him to assist.

SAFA chief executive Danny Jordaan said: "The matter is now closed. It is regrettable that Sono, who took Bafana Bafana to the Nations Cup final, will not be with us on such an historic occasion."

Phil Masinga's goals guided South Africa into its first World Cup finals. Now the nation is hoping he can score a few more to keep the team there.

Masinga's club career has often been a struggle, but when he pulls on a green and yellow shirt, there is no stopping the man who scored the winner in all four of South Africa's qualifying victories.

Born just outside Johannesburg, Masinga left South Africa in 1994 after three seasons with the Mamelodi Sundowns for the English Premiership and a disappointing two-year spell with Leeds United.

There was a ray of sunshine when he won the African Nations Cup before the home crowds in February 1996.

But when the league season ended, Masinga was shipped off to Switzerland, where he played 10 games with St Gallen before leaving in October for Salernitana and Italy's Serie B.

It was a tough apprenticeship, but he managed to score four times in 16 games.

In May, Masinga returned to England, this time to face Glenn Hoddle's side at Wembley. England won 2-1, but South Africa played well and Masinga scored an equalising goal.

"Even though we ended up losing, it was still a result we can be proud of," he said.

However, there was more to be proud of in August, when South Africa qualified for their first ever World Cup finals by beating Congo, with Masinga scoring the winner.

"Certain feelings you just can't describe," he said. "Obviously, it was the most important goal in my life, but it's difficult to describe what happened at that moment.

"The roar of 95,000 people in Johannesburg made the earth tremble. And when the final whistle went, everyone was crying and shouting for joy. The partying went on for two days.

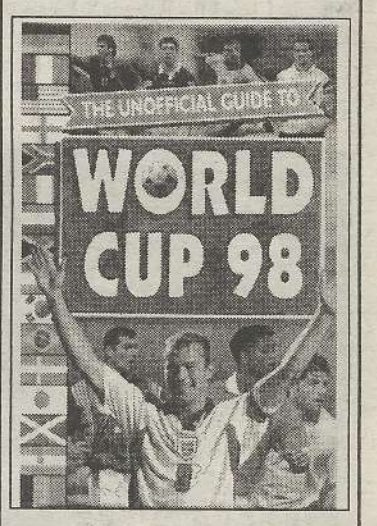
"To see white and black people celebrating together was one of those magical things that makes sport such an extraordinary thing."

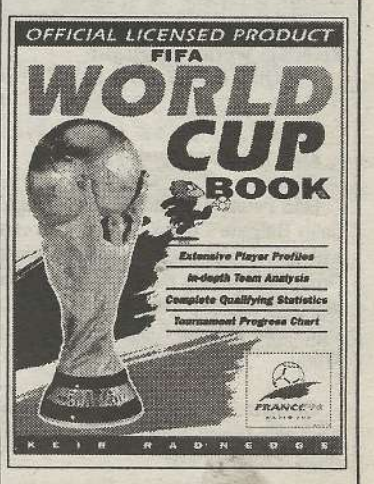
As for the inevitable comparison with South Africa's rugby World Cup victory in 1995, he said: "That was the first time sport had struck a blow against apartheid. Now we've struck the last one."

Masinga had made it to the top, thanks to a rare ability to score goals that count. In France, that skill should come in handy.

WORLD CUP BOOKS

Competition on Page 2





WORLD CUP GROUP D

BY STUART JONES AND MICKY BROCK

Bulgaria

Previous Finals:
1962 1st Round
1966 1st Round
1970 1st Round
1974 1st Round
1986 2nd Round
1994 Semi-Finals (4th)

Best: 4th in 1994 (semi finals)

Hosts: Never

Qualifying path: Winners European Group 5

Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
8	6	0	2	18	9	18

Israel 2 Bulgaria 1 - Luxembourg 1 Bulgaria 2 - Cyprus 1 Bulgaria 3 - Bulgaria 4 Cyprus 1 - Bulgaria 4 Luxembourg 0 - Bulgaria 1 Israel 0 - Bulgaria 1 Russia 0 - Russia 4 Bulgaria 2.

Top scorer in qualifying: Emil Kostadinov 6

Stoichkov

Bulgaria's national team has not been without its own internal problems. Their stars are experienced, but also fairly old. Perhaps their best chance was last time around. Again Hristo Stoichkov, recently departed form Barcelona, will be the key to the side's progress.

Alex Tobin says: "Did well in the last World Cup, they should get a quarter-final birth."

Betting: 67.00

The Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) said Eintracht Frankfurt defender Petar Hubchev had refused to join the national squad for a World Cup training camp.

BFU spokesman Nikola Exerov said a letter signed by Hubchev and faxed to the BFU said he had been exhausted helping his club win a place in the German first division.

It was not immediately clear if coach Hristo Bonev would still consider Hubchev for his squad for the finals in France. He was not available for comment.

Bonev was forced to call up Hubchev as cover for skipper Trifon Ivanov who has been struggling with an injury for more than a month.

Hubchev last played for the national side in September 1996 when Bulgaria started their qualifying campaign with a 2-1 defeat in Israel.

Bonev called him up again last month for a friendly against Morocco in Sofia but Hubchev did not turn up saying his club had received the invitation too late.

In a television interview last week Bonev said he had some concerns over his defence and had called up Rosen Kirilov from new Bulgarian champions Litex Lovech.

But he warned that Kirilov's place in the final 22-man squad for France was not guaranteed. Kirilov has been in impressive form this season in the Bulgarian championship.

Coach Hristo Bonev has dropped midfielder Ilia Gruev from his World Cup squad, abandoning earlier promises to help the player clear his name of doping charges.

"Even if a new test in Germany is negative, the first one remains a fact and he is out of my plans," Bonev said in a television interview.

He said he had taken the decision after discussing the case with the head of the Bulgarian doping control laboratory.

The player, who has already been suspended by the Bulgarian soccer federation, faces a two-year ban after last month testing positive for the banned anabolic nortestosterone.

Bonev's original reaction was strong in Gruyev's defence. "I will struggle tooth-and-nail for this lad as I know him very well and I am sure that he cannot not do such a thing," Bonev said in a radio interview two weeks ago.

"He is innocent and I will prove it. Ilia Gruev will play in the World Cup finals," he said, adding he would send a fresh Gruyev sample to an internationally recognised laboratory in Cologne.

The coach then named the 28-year-old from Neftochimik Bourgas in his squad for a training camp.

Also, Bonev said he had some concerns over his defence as skipper Trifon Ivanov is still recovering from injury.

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v Paraguay (Montpellier)	June 12	10.00am live (Friday)
v Nigeria (Paris)	June 20	1.00am live (Saturday)
v Spain (Lens)	June 25	delayed telecast

Coach: Hristo Bonev

Colours: White shirts, green shorts.

Record in World Cup Finals:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
6	22	2	7	13	19	45

Euro 96: Did not qualify for finals.

Odd Point: Up until the last World Cup finals Bulgaria's record had been shocking, with only a third place (2 draws, no wins) in Group One putting them through to Round two of World Cup 1986. Then in 1994 the side came out and finished fourth in the World!

Of their Group D opponents Bulgaria have only played Nigeria in the World Cup finals before; 1 loss

1994 Group D Round 1 Nigeria 3 (Yekini 21, Amokachi 43, Amunike 54) Bulgaria 0 - Cotton Bowl, Dallas, USA.

Nigeria

Previous Finals: 1994 2nd Round

Best: 2nd Round (1994)

Hosts: Never

Qualifying path:
Winners African Group One
(Exempt from Round 1)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
6	4	1	1	10	4	13

Nigeria 2 Burkina Faso 0 - Kenya 1 Nigeria 1 - Nigeria 2 Guinea 1 - Burkina Faso 1 Nigeria 2 - Nigeria 3 Kenya 0 - Guinea 1 Nigeria 0.

Top scorer in qualifying: Daniel Amokachi 4

Chilavert

Coach: Bora Milutinovic

Colours: Green/white shirts, green shorts.

Record in World Cup Finals:

Qld	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
1	4	2	0	2	7	4

African Nations: They were suspended from this competition.

Odd Point: Nigeria won the gold medal at the 96 Atlanta Olympics for men's soccer. Since then they have had four coaches but the experienced Milutinovic knows the World Cup very well indeed.

Of their Group D opponents Nigeria have only played Bulgaria in the World Cup finals before.

1994 Group D Round 1 Nigeria 3 (Yekini 21, Amokachi 43, Amunike 54) Bulgaria 0 - Cotton Bowl, Dallas, USA.

A tough group to be in and Nigeria will find it difficult to qualify for phase two. If they do though they will be on a solid roll and could make it a lot deeper into the end of the competition. They can not be written off this time around but they may have lost the element of surprise they had last time around.

Alex Tobin says: "Will struggle to get past the two European teams in this group."

Betting: 31.00

Nigeria have announced a provisional 29-man squad for the World Cup finals in France.

"Four more names were sent to us from their Switzerland camp by coach Bora Milutinovic to join the squad of 25 training there to play Yugoslavia in a friendly later this month," Nigeria Football Association secretary Sani Toro said.

Goalkeeper Ike Shorounmu, who broke his arm while playing for his Swiss club FC Zurich, has been dropped.

Milutinovic will name the final 22-man squad on June 2.

Goalkeepers: Ademola Bankole (Crewe Alexandria), Willy Opara (Orlando Pirates), Justin Akubuike (Jasper United), Abiodun Baruwa (FC Sion).

Defenders: Mobi Oparaku (Kapellen), Uche Okechukwu (Fenerbahce), Taribo West (Inter Milan), Celestine Babayaro (Chelsea), Jero Shakpoke (Reggianna), Kingsley Obiekwu (Go Ahead Eagles), Ajibade Babalade (LG Cheetahs, Korea), Uche Okafor (Kansas City Wizards).

Roberto Acuna

Midfielders: Garba Lawal (Roda Kerkrade), Sunday Oliseh (Ajax), Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha (Fenerbahce), Karibe Ojigwe (Kaiserslautern), Steven Musa (Saabrucken), Godwin Okpara (Strasbourg), Mutiu Adepoju (Real Sociedad), Wilson Oruma (Lens), James Obiora (Anderlecht).

Forwards: Finidi George (Real Betis), Tijjani Babangida (Ajax), Nwankwo Kanu (Inter Milan), Victor Ikpeba (Monaco), Daniel Amokachi (Besiktas), Rashidi Yekini (FC Zurich), Emmanuel Amunike (Barcelona), Henry Onwuzuruike (FC Heerenveen).

Nigerian-born goalkeeper Ademola Bankole, who plays for English first division side Crewe, has been named in his country's provisional squad of 29 for the World Cup finals.

Bankole was a member of Nigeria's 1994 World Cup squad but, after leaving his country's top side Shooting Stars to come to England, he dropped out of the international scene.

Benitez

The goalkeeper is one of four additional players who are to join a party of 25 now training in Switzerland.

Milutinovic has dispensed with some established players, including strikers Jonathan Akpoborie and Samson Siasia, keeper Peter Rufai and defenders Austin Eguavoen and Ben Iroha.

All the players featured for Nigeria during the qualifying matches for France 98.

Nigeria's warm-up programme for the finals include matches against Yugoslavia in Belgrade on May 30 and The Netherlands in Amsterdam on June 5.

Wimbledon's Nigerian international Efan Ekoku has said his dream of playing in the World Cup was in tatters.

Ekoku, who underwent an operation on a serious ankle injury in February, said national coach Bora Milutinovic had informed him he would not be in Nigeria's final 22.

"I've been in contact with the coach and I'm on standby. But it doesn't look like I'll be going unless one or two players get injured," Ekoku told Wimbledon Clubcall.

"I'm very disappointed as it might be my last chance to go to the World Cup," said the 30-year-old, who was left out of the 26-man Nigeria squad for a friendly against Yugoslavia in Belgrade on May 30.

Ekoku has barely played for Wimbledon since his operation and said his lack of match practice had cost him his place.

"The coach was only appointed in January and has hardly seen me play," he said. "He is worried about my lack of fitness and I think he's got it in his mind already who he wants in his 22."

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v Spain (Nantes)	June 13	10.00pm live (Saturday)
v Bulgaria (Paris)	June 20	1.00am live (Saturday)
v Paraguay (Lens)	June 25	4.30am live (Thursday)

WORLD CUP GROUP D

CELEBRITY COMMENTS: ALEX TOBIN

Paraguay

Previous Finals:
1930 1st Round
1950 1st Round
1958 1st Round
1986 2nd Round

Best: 2nd Round (1986)

Hosts: Never

Qualifying path: Runners-Up in South American Group

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
16	9	2	5	21	14	29

Colombia 1 Paraguay 0 - Uruguay 0 Paraguay 2 - Argentina 1 Paraguay 1 - Paraguay 2 Chile 1 - Paraguay 1 Ecuador 0 - Bolivia 0 Paraguay 0 - Venezuala 0 Paraguay 2 - Paraguay 2 Peru 1 - Paraguay 2 Colombia 1 - Paraguay 3 Uruguay 1 - Paraguay 1 Argentina 2 - Chile 2 Paraguay 1 - Ecuador 2 Paraguay 1 - Paraguay 2 Bolivia 1 - Paraguay 1 Venezuala 0 - Peru 1 Paraguay 0.

Top scorer in qualifying: Aristides Rojas 3, Miguel Benitez 3, Carlos Gamarra 3

Luis Enrique

Coach: Paulo Cesar Carpegiani

Colours: Red shirts, white shorts.

Record in World Cup Finals:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
4	11	3	4	4	16	25

Copa America: Quarter-finals.

Odd Point: Coach Carpeggiani won 16 caps and played in the 1974 World Cup finals — for Brazil! He also guided Flamengo to the World Club Championship in 1981, defeating Liverpool of England in the final.

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v Bulgaria (Montpellier)	June 12	10.00pm live (Friday)
v Spain (Saint-Etienne)	June 20	4.30am live (Saturday)
v Nigeria (Toulouse)	June 25	4.30am live (Thursday)

Paraguay have never played teams in this group before in the World Cup finals.

Paraguay have been written off early but they came through a tough qualifying tournament and ended up in second spot.

They so have some good players and have a strong defence, however, they need a consistant goal scorer up front, as evidenced by the fact one of their equal top scorers in the qualifying series was a defender.

Alex Tobin says: "Will find it tough to progress."

Fernando Hierro

Betting: 81.00

Squad of 22 announced:

Goalkeepers: Jose Luis Chilavert (Velez Sarsfield, Arg), Ruben Ruiz Diaz Monterrey, Mex), Danilo Aceval (Union Santa Fe, Arg)

Defenders: Pedro Sarabia (River Plate, Arg), Celso Ayala (River Plate, Arg), Catalino Rivarola (Gremio Porto Alegre, Bra), Francisco Arce (Palmeiras, Bra), Ricardo Rojas (Estudiantes, Arg), Denis Caniza (Olimpia, Par), Carlos Gamarra (Corinthians, Bra).

Midfielders: Julio Cesar Enciso (Inter de Porto Alegre, Bra), Roberto Acuna (Real Zaragoza, Spa), Edgar Aguilera (Cerro Cora, Par), Carlos Morales (Gimnasia de Jujuy, Arg), Carlos Paredes (Olimpia, Par).

Forwards: Miguel Benitez (Espanyol, Spa), Julio Cesar Yegros (Cruz Azul, Mex), Jorge Campos (Beijin Guoan, Chn), Jose Cardozo (Toluca, Mex), Aristides Rojas (Union Santa Fe, Arg), Cesar Ramirez (Sporting Lisbon, Por), Hugo Brizuela (Argentinos Juniors, Arg)

Spain

Previous Finals
1934 Quarter-finals
1950 2nd Round (4th)
1962 1st Round
1966 1st Round
1978 1st Round
1982 2nd Round
1986 Quarter-Finals
1990 2nd Round
1994 Quarter-Finals

Best: 4th (2nd Round) in 1950

Hosts: 1982

Raul

Qualifying path: Winners European Group Six

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
10	8	2	0	26	6	26

Faroe Islands 2 Spain 6 - Czech Repbulic 0 Spain 0 - Spain 4 Slovakia 1 - Spain 2 Yugoslavia 0 - Malta 0 Spain 3 - Spain 4 Malta 0 - Yugoslavia 1 Spain 1 - Spain 1 Czech Repbulic 0 - Slovakia 1 Spain 2 - Spain 3 Faroe Islands 1.

Top scorer in qualifying: Alfonso Perez 5

Coach: Javier Clemente (coach of previous World Cup campaign)

Colours: Red/dark blue shirts, dark blue shorts.

Schedule (Australian time)	SBS	
v Nigeria (Nantes)	June 13	10.00am live (Saturday)
v Paraguay (St-Etienne)	June 20	4.30am live (Saturday)
v Bulgaria (Lens)	June 25	Delayed telecast (Thurs)

Record in World Cup Finals:

Qld	P	W	D	L	F	A
9	37	15	8	14	53	44

Euro 96: Quarter-finalists

Odd Point: This will be goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta's fourth World Cup campaign. This is also Spain's sixth consecutive appearance in this stage of the World Cup.

Despite Spain's long history in the World Cup finals they have not played against Paraguay, Nigeria or Bulgaria in this tournament before.

Spain always promise so much but end up disappointing their fans. Euro 96 was a classic example of this. The side is made up of players all playing their league football in Spain, a maginficent feat. They should do well in this group and will surprise teams through the latter stages as well.

Alex Tobin says: "Will bring plenty of support from home. May have a chance of making the semi-finals."

Betting: 13.00

Fernando Morientes

Squad of 22 announced:

Goalkeepers: Andoni Zubizarreta (Valencia), Santiago Canizares (Real Madrid), Jose Molina (Atletico Madrid)

Defenders: Albert Ferrer, Miguel Angel Nadal, Sergi Barjuan, Abelardo Fernandez (Barcelona), Fernando Hierro (Real Madrid), Rafael Alkorta (Athletic Bilbao), Ivan Campo (Mallorca), Carlos Aguilera (Atletico Madrid), Agustin Aranzabal (Real Sociedad)

Midfielders: Luis Enrique Martinez, Guillermo Amor, Albert Celades (Barcelona), Julen Guerrero (Athletic Bilbao)

Strikers: Raul Gonzalez, Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid), Alfonso Perez (Real Betis), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Kiko Narvaez (Atletico Madrid), Juan Pizzi (Barcelona)

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NEXT WEEK GROUP E & GROUP F

Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

AND SO THE CURTAIN COMES DOWN

Season 1997/98 finally ended, one week later than scheduled because Italy struggled to make the World Cup back in November, and a resulting two games against Russia were needed to secure their passage.

So Juve were crowned champions but that was known at least a month ago when they beat nearest rivals Inter (how can that game be forgotten!).

Inter finished second and will join next year's Champions League. They will tell you that the referees favoured Juventus, but for the first time in nearly a decade (they last won a scudetto in 1989), Inter were by far the glamour club in Milan.

Udinese finished in clear third and what an achievement it was for this small provincial town and its team. With the strike power of German ace Oliver Bierhoff notching up 25 goals. They certainly made fans sit up and take notice.

Ironically neither their coach Zacheroni or Bierhoff will be there next year. The German striker will be joining AC Milan while the coach may be joining him.

Roma, under the guidance of Zdenek Zeman, finished fourth in the end, despite rarely being this high on the ladder.

Equal fifth were Fiorentina and Parma and both teams will have new coaches next year. Fiorentina's Alberto Malesani will be joining Parma as Carlo Ancelotti moves away from the hot-seat at that club.

Taking over the helm at Fiorentina will be the legendary Giovanni Trapattoni, formerly of Juventus, Inter and Bayern.

In seventh place we see the other side from Rome, Lazio. At one stage they were challenging Juventus but had a disastrous end to the season, that included losing the Italian Cup Final to Inter 3-0.

The biggest disappointment at the top was AC Milan, while down at the bottom a huge disaster was Napoli.

For Milan this was the year they lured back to the club, from Spain, Fabio Capello. Yet results did not happen for them, with 12 losses, 11 draws and only 11 victories for a finish of 41 points. No doubt in the close-season there will be big changes, including the likely departure of the coach. Yes, this is the same man who won four scudetti in five years for the club!

Meanwhile down south the campaign for Napoli was an absolute shocker, especially poignant given the proud soccer area this is. Four coaches in one year is hardly the stuff that leads to confidence or stability at team level. They conceded 76 goals, the highest amount of any team in the Serie A, and scored only 25 goals, the lowest amount of any team in the league. Enough said.

Ronaldo's Papal visit

Joining Napoli in the Serie B will be Lecce, Brescia and Atalanta. Vicenza, Empoli, Piacenza and Bari all narrowly avoided the drop.

Sampdoria and Bologna will play for a spot in next year's UEFA Cup.

Other spots will go to Udinese, Parma, Roma and Fiorentina.

The Cup Winners Cup place goes to Lazio, unlike Juve and Inter who are in the Champions League.

Another pretty strong selection of clubs for Italy next year. Who would bet against an Italian team winning at least one cup.

POPE MEETS PHENOMENON

Recently in Rome, Pope John Paul II met Brazilian and Inter star Ronaldo ,together with the player's mother. It was a private audience with both the star and his mum, who are devout catholics.

Ronaldo is said to have given the Holy Father an Inter shirt and a Brazilian shirt. One wonders whether they will be worn by the Pope.

MORE COMINGS AND GOINGS

New Fiorentina boss Giovanni Trapattoni has insisted that Gabriel Batistuta stays at the club. It is part of what 'Trap' agreed with the club's boss Vittorio Cecchi Gori, before he signed with the club. The agreement in signing was on the understanding that the Argentine would head up the forward line.

Meanwhile Hernan Crespo will stay at his club Parma, despite a number of clubs, including AC Milan, chasing his signature for the new year.

Hernan Crespo

Another player AC Milan are said to be chasing is Marco Simone, who has just completed his one year stint in France with PSG.

Also on the former Italian giants' shopping list is Enrico Chiesa from Parma. He would be a useful acquisition given the departure of Savicevic, Kluivert and Leonardo.

The New York Metrostars want

Ariel Ortega

AC Milan veteran Roberto Donadoni to return to the club. Milan lured him back to the Serie A this year after a brief stint in the US.

Juventus and Bologna could be exchanging players: Kennett Anderson and Angelo di Livio are the two in question.

Argentine star Ariel Ortega could be playing for Champions League runners-up Juventus. Ortega, who plays in Spain for Valencia, does not have a harmonious relationship with his coach, and is said to be part of a possible deal that may include another Juve player. Needless to say a large amount of cash will be part of this deal.

And of course Chilean sensation Marcelo Salas will be wearing a Lazio shirt after his move from South America after France 98.

No doubt more comings and goings will occur around the Italian scene before the new season ...

Marcelo Salas.

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SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled by Mario Etchart —

PARAGUAY DRAW IN JAPAN

Japan snatched a late equaliser against fellow World Cup finalists Paraguay at Tokyo's National Stadium last week to open the round-robin Kirin Cup tournament.

Only four minutes were left when Japan's Brazilian-born forward Wagner Lopes, a second-half substitute, was brought down on the edge of the box.

Fellow striker Shoji Jo took a quick free-kick which caught the Paraguayan defence napping and wing-back Naoki Soma stole in on the left to angle a shot into the far corner of the net to make the score 1-1.

Until then Japan had battled fruitlessly to get back into the match after conceding a goal in the seventh minute. It resulted from a naive piece of defending which they will have to make sure they do not repeat at the World Cup in France.

Paraguay forced a corner and when the ball was swung in by Roberto Acuna from the right defender Celso Ayala rose unmarked in the centre of the six-metre box to plant a firm header past the helpless Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi in the Japanese goal.

Japan's coach Takeshi Okada was painfully aware of his team's failure to deal with Paraguay's strategy at the corner.

"Normally three to four players come up for a corner," he said. "This time they had five in the box and we couldn't respond quickly enough. We can't give away a goal like that in the World Cup and expect to win."

Roberto Acuna: It was his corner that led to Paraguay's first goal.

Both teams began with a 3-5-2 formation. But Okada had hoped to test a counter-attacking strategy against Paraguay, giving an indication of Japan's likely tactics in France at least against Argentina in their opening match in Group H.

"We came out to play deep and counter-attack but we lost the early goal on a set-play and then Paraguay didn't come at us which was unfortunate," said Okada.

It was only in the 78th minute when midfielder Takashi Hirano replaced defender Yutaka Akita that Japan reverted to a flat back four.

Paraguay, like Japan, played very deep and after scoring the opening goal failed to impose themselves on the match.

Strikers Jose Cardozo and Hugo Brizuela were anonymous and even star midfielder Acuna played in fits and starts.

Paraguay made four changes at half-time and manager Paulo Cesar Carpegiani clearly used the game to check out some of the less well-known members of his squad.

It was only after Paraguay brought on striker Miguel Benitez — top scorer in their World Cup qualifiers with four goals — that they began to look dangerous.

One mazy run towards the end of the match took Benitez past three defenders but his low shot was weakly struck, enabling Yamaguchi to make the save by diving low to his left.

Paraguay boss Carpegiani said his players were not fully fit and many were tired and jet-lagged after their long journey to Tokyo.

BATISTUTA HEADER BEATS CHILE

A second-half goal by striker Gabriel Batistuta gave the Argentina national soccer team a 1-0 victory over Chile in a World Cup warm-up last week.

However, Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano missed a penalty kick in the 90th minute, which would have almost certainly tied the game

Batistuta scored the only goal in the 47th minute before 45,000 spectators at Mendoza.

Chile mounted its attacking options from the off, and Nelson Parraguez and Fabian Estay dominated midfield.

But in the 23rd minute creative play by Ariel Ortega (right) and Claudio Lopez ended in a shot straight at the goal by Batistuta that was caught by goalkeeper Nelson Tapia.

The goal came when Lopez ran down the left wing and centered to Batistuta, crouching almost to the ground. He headed the ball into the net with his customary ease.

Argentina dominated until the end of the match, though the Chileans had that last-ditch chance when Paraguayan referee Ubaldo Aquino gave them a penalty kick, but Zamorano's shot went over the crossbar.

THUGS FORCE GAMES TO BE CANCELLED

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) appealed last week against the suspension of national matches because of growing hooligan violence.

"The appeal has been presented," an AFA spokesman told Reuters.

The AFA and clubs were outraged by Judge Victor Perrota's unprecedented decision this week to suspend provisionally all league matches until "the security of the public (at soccer matches) is guaranteed."

Despite presenting the appeal, the AFA spokesman said it could take five or six days for this to be processed. "There will certainly be no football this weekend," he said.

But the AFA, backed by the clubs — whose pockets could be the hardest hit by a prolonged suspension — was also following a different tack by holding talks with Perrota and security officials in an effort to find a solution.

Perrota said he would stand by his ruling until he felt confident security had been restored.

"He has good intentions, which I am not sure is enough. More than good intentions are needed at this moment," Perrota told journalists after a Friday morning meeting with AFA President Julio Grondona.

Measures under discussion include safeguards to prevent hooligans from going to matches again if they have been caught by the police before. The judge also wants more effective policing inside the grounds.

At Argentine matches, police do not stand vigil inside the stands but remain on the other side of the fences and enter only if they see trouble brewing. That means it takes them longer to separate fighting fans.

Grondona said several proposals had been made. "Everything is in the hands of the judge. We have addressed everything he asked for," Grondona said.

He said the whole issue could be resolved on Monday if the judge accepted the proposals.

In December the government established a special police unit to deal with the problem after a 24-year-old Huracan fan was shot in the head. But the last straw for the judge came after last weekend when two River Plate supporters were shot in the legs before a match against Independiente.

Enrique Mathov, a member of the government's security secretariat said: "People want to go matches without fear of having their heads broken."

FARCE FINALLY WON BY VASCO

Vasco da Gama won the Carioca championship by beating Bangu 1-0 on Thursday last week, to put the chaos-torn competition out of its misery.

Vasco had been left needing a win to clinch the title after two matches earlier this week ended in farcical walkovers when teams failed to turn up because of a row over the fixture list.

Thursday's game itself finished in a typically bizarre style with Bangu players defying an order by their coach to abandon the game in protest at Vasco's injury-time winner.

Bangu directors claimed the goal was offside and told their players to walk off the pitch but were disobeyed. "We want to play on," said goalkeeper Alex, who was interviewed on live television during the stoppage caused by the row.

Play was delayed for nearly five minutes while Bangu directors argued on the touchline and when it resumed, the referee blew for time after just three more seconds had been played.

Vasco's win meant they won the third stage of the championship and took the title automatically as they had already won the second stage as well. The first stage was effectively a qualifying tournament for the smaller clubs.

"We won this title on the pitch," said Vasco coach Antonio Lopes. "We deserved it."

Vasco had been awarded a walkover in their game on Sunday after Botafogo refused to play, claiming the fixture list had been changed without their consent.

It was the first walkover in the history of the Maracana stadium, which was opened as normal for the game and where an official attendance of 171 was registered.

On Wednesday last week, Flamengo and Fluminense had both failed to appear for their game because they said the venue had been switched without their permission.

Once again, the normal preparations for the game were made and, after waiting half an hour, match referee Claudio Cerdeira abandoned the match. The Rio federation then awarded a 2-0 walkover defeat against both teams.

Sixteen fans turned up to watch the preceedings and there was a row afterwards when stadium authorities refused to allow journalists to play a match against the police on the empty pitch.

Flamengo's 'defeat' left Vasco needing to take three points against Bangu to claim the title.

They duly did so with an effort at the death by 36-year-old defender Mauro Galvao, who beat the Bangu offside trap to score. The competition had began in January with a boycott threat by Flamengo, Botafogo and Fluminense, which was only averted when the Rio federation agreed to let all three clubs qualify directly for the second stage along with Vasco, Bangu and Americano.

There was further confusion when the tournament opened with a match between Vasco and Bangu — from the second stage. The first stage only got under way one week later.

At the end of the second stage, Flamengo's meeting with Vasco da Gama was postponed at three days notice because the former insisted their opponents play two outstanding fixtures before meeting them.

Once again Batistuta scores for Argentina, this time against Chile in a friendly in Mendoza.

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